

Hafa Adai!

Strong winds, rough seas in the NI today. **PAGE 2**

Search on for 2 mariners who sailed from Saipan to Guam. **PAGE 7**

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Saipan Tribune

\$1

MILITARY EXERCISE

U.S. Army Green Berets assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), move to shore hauling a resupply package recovered from below the ocean surface during a military exercise on Saipan last Wednesday, July 21, 2021. Special Forces soldiers wear everyday clothes and use nonmilitary vehicles for low visibility operations where they must remain inconspicuous. (Photo altered for security purposes.)

U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. PAUL SALE

CCC gets feelers about casino license

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom disclosed yesterday at a House Gaming Committee meet-

ing that there are legitimate inquiries from potential bidders for a Saipan casino license in the event Imperial Pacific International

(CNMI) LLC's license is revoked.

In response to Gaming Committee vice chair Rep. Christina E. Sablan's (D-

Saipan) question if he or the CCC has been approached by potential bidders for casino license, Yeom confirmed that he is getting inquiries.

See CCC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:22pm, July 22, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **69.6%**

Days since last community transmission **121**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	26,893
Fully Vaccinated:	24,970
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,248
Fully Vaccinated:	3,995
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	519

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,486	14	8,500
Recovered	8,288	10	8,298
Active	45	14	59
Deaths	143	0	143

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	188	0	188
Traced via Travel Screening	152	0	152
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Kensington resumes daily operation

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrera@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Starting today, Kensington Hotel Saipan in San Roque

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

resumes daily operations, after over a year of partial operations due to COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Sales and Marketing manager Katy Hung, the CNMI being on

Level Green in the community vulnerability risk scale for a month now accelerated their decision to open the hotel's doors not just during week-

See KENSINGTON on Page 4

Alert up vs invasive species

By **IVA MAURIN**
CORRESPONDENT

Ships and aircraft that enter the CNMI as part of U.S. military exercises this week are being carefully inspected to ensure that they do not become carriers of Guam invasive species such as brown tree snakes,

fire ants, or coconut rhinoceros beetles.

This was assured by Land and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente, who said that DLNR Invasive Species coordinator Frank Aldan is overseeing the inspections, in coordination with

See ALERT on Page 4

Road to 80: A shot for safety and economic opportunities

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By **MIKE SABLAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.



The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force has been aggressive in its vaccination campaign in the past several months to help the Marianas reach herd immunity.



See TOGETHER on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Panda House is now a sort of French brasserie and is no longer just a dessert shop.

PAGE 13



NATION

Better weather has been helping crews battling the nation's largest blaze in southern Oregon.

PAGE 14



OFF THE WALL

A New York man and a Maine woman are facing charges over cocaine disguised as a cake.

PAGE 17



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Local

Strong winds, rough seas in the NI today

The public is being advised that strong winds and hazardous seas are developing today for the far Northern Islands, particularly on Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, an expansive monsoon trough stretches eastward remain consistent that a circulation will develop along this trough north of 20N before lifting north.

Strong southwest winds will develop across the northern islands of the CNMI today as they feed into the trough and circulation north of 20N. Near-gale to gale force winds and hazardous seas/surf are possible late Friday into the weekend. Conditions should gradually improve Monday and Tuesday.

Strong southwest winds will develop today and tonight, with 15- to 25-knot winds building to near-gale force 25 to 30 knots Saturday. Winds may gust to between 40 and 45 knots during the weekend, especially in and around heavy bands of showers. Strongest winds will be found

farther north. Winds look to subside below 20 knots late Monday or Tuesday.

Seas are expected to build to between 8 and 10 feet today and likely between 10 and 14 feet this weekend from a west to southwest direction. Hazardous surf is likely along west facing reefs and could reach dangerous levels of 15 feet.

Five to 10 inches of rainfall with locally higher amounts is expected through Sunday. Interisland travel is discouraged the next few days.

Residents of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan are being advised to monitor the situation closely and maintain necessary precautionary measures for possible gusty winds and heavy rain and to also stay informed on the latest statements or advisories, which will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000, and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. (PR)

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Last week's second winner of \$1,000 gets his prize



In this frame grab from the Facebook Live video, Road to 80 host Brad Ruzsala, left, presents Joseph Dalupo his \$1,000 prize at the Marina Heights Business Park yesterday morning.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The second winner of last Friday's \$1,000 raffle courtesy of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80 received his cash prize yesterday afternoon, hand-delivered by raffle host Brad Ruzsala at the Marina Heights Business Park. The handoff, like past and future prize handoffs over the course of the Road to 80 campaign, was streamed on Facebook Live.

Although Road to 80 identified Joseph Dalupo as a winner last Friday, he was only able to claim his prize once he was fully vaccinated. Dalupo received his second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine yesterday and was promptly given his money. When asked for brief remarks, Dalupo expressed thanks to Road to 80 for the cash prize.

Everyone who has received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen

vaccine in the CNMI are automatically entered into Road to 80's series of weekly raffles. As of Thursday afternoon, this means that the selection pool for this Friday's and future Road to 80 raffles comprises 31,000 people.

To claim their prizes, those who received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines will need to show proof that they are fully vaccinated through providing the second vaccination confirmation number issued after scheduling an appointment for the second dose. Those who received the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccines are good to go, and will receive their prize.

One winner of \$1,500 will be announced on Facebook Live at 5pm today on Road to 80's official Facebook page. Road to 80's page can be found

at <https://www.facebook.com/roadto80cnmi>. Next Friday, July 30, one winner of \$2,000 will be announced.

Those interested in receiving their COVID-19 vaccine can schedule an appointment online at vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).

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Summer learning adventure with Motherread/Fatheread CNMI

The public is being invited to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Motherread/Fatheread CNMI summer class at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

We are hosting family literacy classes at the library this summer and adding a virtual class, so families can

get a feel of what to expect from our classes. We will be teaching strategies, techniques, sharing books, and activities to help strengthen family bonds and empower our CNMI families to learn and grow in a supportive literacy environment. Moreover, the lessons taught during our classes will

help parents be reading role models for their children.

We are offering the classes on the following days:

■ Friday, July 23, 5pm-6pm onsite at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

■ Monday, July 26, 7:30pm-8:30pm (virtual only)

Nearly 2/3 of global drowning deaths occur in Asia Pacific

In 2019, over 144,000 people drowned in the Asia Pacific region, accounting for 61% of global drowning deaths, according to the first World Health Organization regional assessments on drowning prevention released yesterday ahead of World Drowning Prevention Day. Drowning claimed the lives of an estimated 70,000 and 74,000 people in the WHO Southeast Asia and Western Pacific regions, respectively.

The two WHO reports, "Regional

Status Report on Drowning in the Western Pacific and Regional Status Report on Drowning in Southeast Asia," also warn that climate change, to which the Asia Pacific region is particularly vulnerable, places already vulnerable communities and individuals at increased drowning risk. More frequent and extreme weather events can lead to more regular and intense floods, increasing populations' exposure to potentially hazardous interactions with water.

Non-fatal drowning—where individuals are rescued and/or resuscitated—also results in a substantial number of hospitalizations in the two WHO regions, and can cause severe brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities such as memory problems, learning disabilities and permanent loss of basic function. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CCC

From Page 1

"I cannot tell you who, how many. But yes," Yeom said.

Sablan asked if they are deemed legitimate inquiries, to which Yeom replied, "Yes," but that he can't release more details as it's too sensitive to talk about.

When asked if he has already shared information about potential casino bidders with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Yeom said, "No." He explained that he cannot be talking about the matter as IPI is still in play and it would be unethical for him to do so.

He admitted, though, he shared the information with the commissioners and others at CCC in order to instill a certain sense of confidence that this casino industry can exist or can continue if they do it correctly.

Yeom said their motivation is to go with the current licensee, IPI, and have it come into complete compli-

ance and resolve all its issues. If that doesn't happen, then they will go to the next level of possibly revoking IPI's license, he added.

"I can comfortably tell you that there are bidders out there, whether legit or not. Yes, there are some legit ones. And I'll stop at that," Yeom said.

If all of IPI's assets are liquidated, what will CCC do with the IPI casino/resort building in Garapan? Yeom said it all depends on whether IPI's casino license is going to be revoked or not.

He said it is up to the Legislature whether they will pass another bill to allow multiple Saipan casino licenses at this point.

"Whether you want to just kill the industry altogether, that's up to you," he added.

Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) said nobody really knows what to do with the unfinished IPI building, to which Yeom said that a new investor will probably have to buy the IPI building.

to the governor for military affairs, and they met with the lead planners of Operation Pacific Iron 2021 to discuss the CNMI's biosecurity concerns for the training.

"All cargo items moving to Saipan and Tinian are coming from outside of the Mariana Islands and not originating from Guam. All cargo have undergone complete washdown and pre-departure inspection prior to loading on vessels and aircraft bound to Tinian," he said.

Aldan shared that the Colorado State University is the military's biosecurity contractor, and that they have been conducting pre-departure inspections for all cargo items in Guam. The CSU team arrived on Tinian two days ago and is conducting early detection monitoring for the coconut rhinoceros beetles and other invasive invertebrates for the duration of the training.

Aldan will be back on Tinian next week on Monday to meet with the CSU team to discuss contingency plan should a situation occurs. He added that Invasive Species Technicians will be deployed to Tinian for the duration of the training.

"There's just no solution for that building. ...I don't know if anybody want to buy that building, it would be too expensive to fix it up," Camacho said. "I think we should just kill it, and then we dynamite it," then build a memorial for ancient burials at the site.

If and when the IPI license is revoked, is CCC going to play any role, Sablan asked. "Or are you doing anything now to examine the future of the industry for the Commonwealth and to assist the policy makers in determining what's possible, what's viable? What are options might be? Does the CCC have any role to play in that?"

Yeom said Public Law 21-38 gives CCC the power to issue the license. "If the license is revoked, certainly we have a role in this," said Yeom, who then stated that he can't get into hypotheticals now.

Sablan said even if IPI by some miracle comes into compliance and pay everything that they owe, there is still questions about the future viability of this industry.

In a separate interview, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Brown Tree Snake coordinator Trey Dunn also assures the community that all flights and vessels are being inspected for snakes.

"There are multiple inspections done on cargo and vessels coming in to Tinian for these exercises. USDA...Guam is inspecting with a canine trained to detect snakes before it leaves Guam. They also have deployed staff and canine to Tinian to inspect upon arrival to Tinian," Dunn said. "CNMI DFW also has a staff and canine [on] Tinian who inspects normal cargoes and vessels. He also is assisting with inspections of the military exercises as needed."

DLNR has been partnering with multiple agencies as a measure to heighten security on vessels and cargo entering the CNMI to prevent the entry of invasive species that could pose a threat to the islands' natural resources.

More than 35 aircraft and approximately 800 airmen from the Pacific Air Forces and Air Combat Command are in Guam and Tinian to participate in the Operation Pacific Iron 2021.

■ Wednesday, July 28, 4pm to 5pm onsite at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

■ Friday, July 30, 5pm-6pm onsite at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

For participants, we will be giving daily raffle prizes of books, gift certificates, Pokemon swag bags, and so much more!

This is a free adult family literacy class suitable for parents with children ages 5 years old to 11 years old. Parents are welcome to bring their children. We will be conducting classes in the Children of Our

Homeland Center at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and classes will be taught by a Certified Motherread/Fatheread CNMI Adult Teacher. If you have any questions, and would like to reserve your seat today, contact coordinators Beth Demapan or Celina Foreman at (670) 235-7315 or email read.cnmi@gmail.com.

Motherread/Fatheread CNMI is administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council in partnership with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the CNMI Public School System. (PR)

KENSINGTON

From Page 1

ends but every day, bringing back top notch services for stay-in, leisure and dine-in bookings—just like pre-pandemic times.

"The lifting of many restrictions definitely accelerated our decision and it is our great pleasure to resume operations every day starting today. After more than a year of operating under a limited schedule, Kensington Hotel Saipan is ready to welcome and accommodate local guests on a daily basis with all-time favorite amenities and customer service that vows to wow," she said.

This means one of Kensington Hotel Saipan's priorities is recalling its furloughed employees, followed by the rehiring of those who had been laid off. "After all these have been done and there's still shortage in labor, we will hire from the local market," she said.

Services that will resume include daily operation of ocean view rooms, use of the hotel's main pool, kid's pool, infinity pool, and indoor playground Kenny Play Deck; OHAS café with a la carte menu, the Saturday Crazy Asian Buffet, and Sunday Irresistible Brunch.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TOGETHER

From Page 1

As of July 22, 2021, the CNMI has 29,406 fully vaccinated individuals with a vaccination rate of 69.4%. We need 4,512 people to complete their vaccines for us to reach herd immunity or 80% of the 42,388 CNMI residents eligible for inoculation. The task force has designated more vaccination sites to make it easier for residents to get vaccinated. Recently, the task force, along with the Governor's Office, Marianas Visitors Authority, and other private partners, launched Road to 80, a campaign that encourages unvaccinated people to "take their shot" for a chance to win raffle prizes.

And while the Road to 80 Facebook page has drawn overwhelming support from social media users, the real success of this campaign relies on the residents' willingness to get vaccinated. The cash prizes and other incentives are great incentives, but the true benefits of reaching herd immunity are guarding against the harmful effects of COVID-19, protecting our loved ones, and the opportunity to rebuild our economy.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted during the White House COVID-19 briefing last week that fully vaccinated people are protected against severe COVID-19 symptoms, hospitalization, and death. In the same briefing, Walensky cited higher COVID-19 cases in states with lower vaccination rates. She also noted in an earlier report that 99.5% of all deaths from COVID-19 in the U.S. were among unvaccinated individuals.

The Marianas' herd immunity will also play a critical role in our efforts to revive our economy, which is highly dependent on the tourism industry. Last Saturday, the first group of visitors from South Korea,

a familiarization tour group, arrived on Saipan a little over two weeks after South Korea and the Marianas signed the travel bubble agreement. South Korea chose the Marianas to be its first travel partner because we are one of the only few destinations that managed to control and mitigate its COVID-19 cases.

Let's keep it that way, so when we reach an 80% vaccination rate and beyond, we can ease protocol requirements and be able to attract more visitors beyond South Korea, one of which is a key source market, Japan. We also have the potential of reopening our doors to tourists from Hong Kong, which has been re-included in the CNMI Visa Waiver Program. Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong are working hard on increasing their vaccination rates and by the time we have reached herd immunity, their inoculation percentage could be between 50% and 60%, making it more feasible and safer to welcome visitors from these three countries to our islands.

Regaining our source markets' confidence in travel to enjoy the Marianas as a "Multi-Island Integrated Destination" is a crucial step toward reopening many local business establishments and getting our residents back to work. With the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs ending soon, there is a great sense of urgency to get people back to work. The deadline for PUA and FPUC applications is Sept. 7 and we haven't heard if these temporary aids will be extended.

Extended or not, we have to be prepared and do something. The GCEA encourages all eligible residents to support #VaccinateCNMI and take the Road to 80. Together, We Can help our islands move forward and share the responsibility of keeping The Marianas safe, clearing the way toward our economic recovery.

ALERT

From Page 1

the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs.

The Division of Customs and Quarantine is also tasked with handling all incoming vessels from Guam, with quarantine inspectors who are trained to monitor invasive species, such as coconut rhinoceros beetles, little fire ants, wasps and black widow, among others. These quarantine officers are certified inspectors for invasive species on any of the ports of entry in the CNMI.

In an interview, Aldan said they are in communication with the U.S. military and that they have a complete schedule of all vessels and aircraft arrivals on both Tinian and Saipan.

"Customs and Quarantine have been inspecting every military ship and aircraft that have landed on both Saipan and Tinian so far. We have set rhino beetle traps in both Saipan and Tinian airports and seaports for precautionary measures," he said.

He added that he was on Tinian a week and half ago with Glenna Palacios, who is the special assistant

VACCINATION FOR EDUCATION

HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE YET?

In our efforts to return to face-to-face classes beginning the School-Year 2021-2022, the **Public School System is HIGHLY RECOMMENDING** for students **12 years old and above** to **GET VACCINATED** before the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**.

First day of school is on August 18, 2021.

Vaccinated students will have the chance to win \$500 cash prizes and smartphones with free one-year contracts.

What You Need to Do: Students who completed their COVID-19 vaccination record cards must submit them to their School Registrars by August 17, 2021 before noon to be entered into the raffle.

Winners will be announced on the PSS social media official pages (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) on August 18, 2021.

www.cnmipss.org

**I have received mine.
When will you receive yours?**

Where will I go to get vaccinated?

SAIPAN - MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

(ages: 12 and over)

- **Monday** — 8:00am to 5:30pm (last call)
- **Tuesday** — 8:00am to 5:30pm (last call)
- **Wednesday** — 8:00am to 5:30pm (last call)
- **Thursday** — 8:00am to 5:30pm (last call)
- **Friday** — 8:00am to 5:30pm (last call)
- **Saturday** — 8:00am to 3:30pm (last call)

SAIPAN - POP-UP LOCATIONS

Northern Marianas College | Friday, 07/23 | Saturday, 07/24
(Ages 12 and over)
9:00am - 3:00pm (last call)

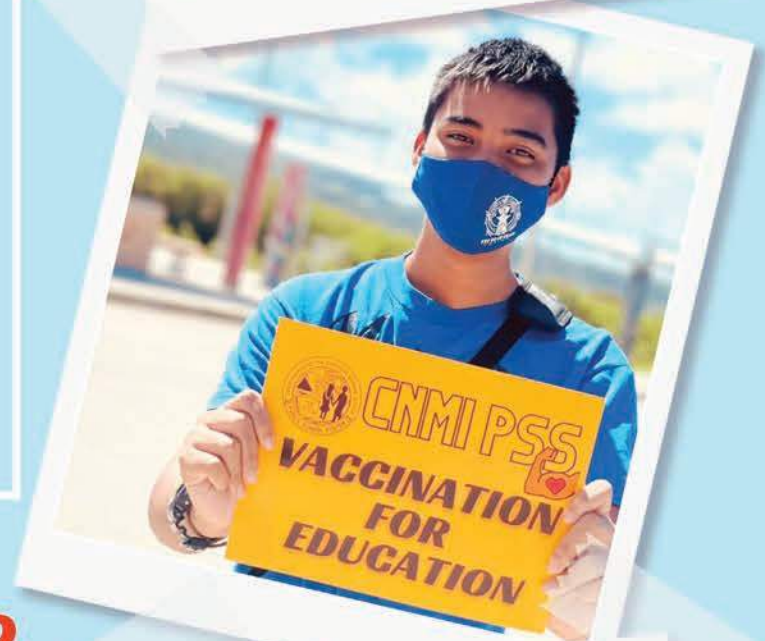
Santa Remedios Church | Sunday, 07/25 (Ages 12 and over)
8:00am - 12:00pm (last call)

Civic Center - MVA's Summer Jam Event | Saturday, 07/31
(Ages 12 and over)
3:00pm - 8:30pm (last call)

TINIAN

Tinian Health Center | Tuesday 07/27 (Ages 12 and over)
8:30am to 2:00pm (last call)

FOR REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION
Please visit vaccinatecnmi.com or call (670) 682-SHOT (7468)



Peace and Order was the contractor hired by Fairyland to remodel and build an apartment building on Navy Hill on Saipan. Peace and Order said it stopped work on the project after Fairyland refused to pay the amount owed for work completed under the construction contract.

Search on for 2 mariners who sailed from Saipan to Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard is searching for two mariners after their 14-foot black Kodiak skiff was reported overdue during their voyage from Saipan to Guam.

The mariners were identified as Xiao Wei Quin and Yun Liu Red. It is possible they made it safely to shore on Guam, according to a U.S. Coast Guard statement yesterday. Anyone

with information regarding their whereabouts is requested to contact the Coast Guard Sector Guam command center at (671) 355-4824.

At 4:16pm yesterday, Sector

Guam watchstanders received a report from CNMI Department of Public Safety notifying them that the spouse of one of the individuals had called, concerned for the mariners' wellbeing. The

spouse reported the mariners left Saipan for Guam on July 18, Sunday, and the last text she had received from her husband stated they could see Guam.

Sector Guam watchstanders

issued an Urgent Marine Information broadcast notice to mariners and deployed assets to search the area while also coordinating with local authorities. (USCG)

UOG-NMC criminal justice partnership program celebrates first 21 graduates



Holds his University of Guam diploma at the Northern Marianas College commencement ceremony on May 21. Kintol is one of the first 21 graduates of the UOG-NMC BSCJ 3+1 program.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Twenty-one graduates from the Northern Marianas College are the first to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. This accomplishment was possible through the "BSCJ 3+1" partnership between the college and the University of Guam that launched in May 2019.

"The structure of the program allowed students from the CNMI to continue their studies at home with minimal disruption to work and family life," said Annette Santos, dean of UOG's School of Business and Public Administration. "The success of the UOG-NMC partnership is credited to the excellent team of faculty and professional staff across both institutions."

Under the partnership, students complete three years of NMC coursework and one year of coursework from UOG. Through UOG's online learning platform, the program gives students the opportunity and convenience of earning their bachelor's degree without having to leave Saipan.

One of the graduates, Daniel Kintol, said the opportunity gave him the motivational boost he needed to go back to school and complete his degree.

"I really liked the support we received from the university. All the people that I encountered went out of their way to make me feel like a Triton. The learning environment and support from the university and professors was unlike anything I have seen or experienced be-

fore," Kintol said.

Graduate Josephine Estrada said she chose to major in criminal justice because she wanted to make a change within the system.

"I felt that by attaining a degree in criminal justice, I would be able to instill a positive change for the community. My drive was further heightened as my experience and knowledge in the field grew," Estrada said. "From Zoom [classes] to weekly discussion posts, it was a really fun and formative experience."

The graduates received their UOG diplomas during NMC's commencement ceremony last May 21, where they were presented in person by Ronald McNinch, UOG's division chair for public administration and legal studies. UOG president Thomas Krise conferred their degrees virtually.

The graduates were also recognized at UOG's Fañomñakan Commencement Ceremony last May 23.

Following the program's success, UOG is exploring other potential collaborations on degree programs between UOG and NMC and with other colleges in Micronesia.

"The success of this format is inspiring us at the School of Business and Public Administration to explore the possibility of offering other programs, such as the Master of Public Administration, accounting, and business administration as potential future offerings through similar articulation agreements," Santos said. (PR)

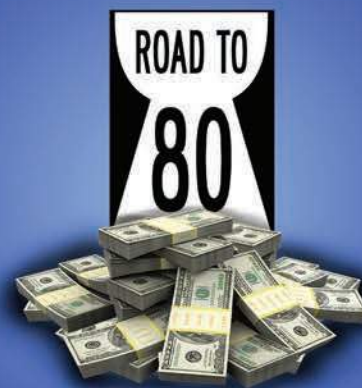
Josephine Estrada holds her University of Guam diploma in front of the CNMI Justice Building in Susupe, Saipan, where she works. Estrada graduated in May with her bachelor's in criminal justice through the UOG-NMC partnership.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

**GUMA HUSTISIA
IIMWAL AWEWE
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@roadto80cnmi

Bands wanted for Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam

The Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam on July 31, 2021, on Saipan, is inviting all bands in the Marianas to sign up for the Battle of Bands.

The event, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, will highlight the importance of tourism for the Marianas and celebrates the commencement of international flights.

"We're expecting a strong turnout at the Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam and would love to see more bands showcase their talent for the Battle of the Bands," said MVA Community Projects manager Mar-

tin Duenas. "There are great cash prizes for the winners and more importantly, it's going to be an exciting event to celebrate the resumption of tourism in our community."

Prizes are \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place. A \$150 cash consolidation prize will be awarded to non-winning bands.

Voting will be based on a combination of audience and judges votes. All music genres are welcome and each band will receive a 15-minute set to perform. Set times will be

strictly enforced with points lost for exceeding 15 minutes. All bands must use sound and light engineers hired by the MVA. The MVA will provide a 5-piece drum kit, three cymbals' stands, hi-hat stand, snare drum with stand, single bass drum pedal, mics, and mic cables. Bands should provide cymbals, hi-hat cymbals, throne, sticks, double bass pedal (if required), guitars, amps, DI boxes, and anything else the band needs. Use of the provided drum kit will be mandatory. Bands members must be at least 18 years old. Ad-

ditional rules may apply.

The Battle of the Bands will begin at 7pm. All confirmed bands must attend a briefing on July 27, 2021, at 2pm at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan. The briefing will include a review of the rules and a blind draw for the lineup.

The Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam is scheduled from 3pm to 10pm at Guma Sakman across the Marianas High School in Susupe and will feature a variety of cuisine and live entertainment. Entry is free.

COVID-19 protocols will be strictly followed at the event,

which is anticipated to also include a vaccination booth.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3200. (MVA)

Registration ongoing for free webinar on effects of sexual violence on brain

Registration is still ongoing for the free webinar called "Becoming Trauma Informed: Understanding the Effects of Sexual Violence on the Brain and Body" that will be held on Thursday, July 29, 2021, via Zoom, from 8:45am to 12pm.

Those who want to attend this webinar may fill out the online form to receive a link for the webinar (<https://forms.gle/cVpjdnhMdlbU7PV9>).

This training opportunity is being coordinated by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence in collaboration with the CNMI Sexual Assault Response.

The webinar will feature a presentation by Dr. Jim Hopper, a clinical psychologist and Teaching Associate in Psychology at Harvard Medical School with over 25 years of clinical and consulting work

focused on the psychological and biological effects of sexual assault, child abuse, and other traumatic experiences.

Topics to be covered include how stress and trauma can alter brain functioning during sexual assault and other traumas; the key brain circuitries impacted by stress and trauma; brain-based experiences, behaviors, and memory characteristics; implications for those who work with victims of sexual assault and other violence; and trauma-informed response.

For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@EndViolenceNMI.org.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, call 911 for emergencies or call the 24/7 Karidat victim hotline at (670) 234-5100 to speak to an advocate. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on Monday, July 26, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes
 - May 12, 2021 Special Board Meeting
 - May 28, 2021 Special Board Meeting
 - June 9, 2021 Special Board Meeting
 - June 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- Correspondence

II. Management Reports

- Executive Director's Report
- Chief Financial Officer's Report
- Legal Counsel's Update On Judge Carter's Visit

III. Committee Reports

- Operations Committee

IV. Old Business

- Power Plant, DE5 and DE7 Update
- Update on Payment Kiosks
- 1% Payment to OPA under Public Law 9-68

V. New Business

- Procurement Matters for Approval
- Cost of Legal Services – Office of the Attorney General
- Customer Service Workflow
- Procurement Regulations Proposed Amendments

VI. Public Comments**

VII. Executive Session***

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment

/s/
MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.

** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58 | Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com



AGENDA

*** July 29, 2021 ***

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the COVID-19 pandemic and limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes: June 24, 2021

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS:

- Report by the Chairman
- Report by the Executive Director

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

- Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") – Updates:
 - Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR").
 - Status of IPI's request for extension of the IGF construction deadline per CLA Amendment #6.
 - IPI Personnel Matters:
 - Status of Employee Payroll
 - Status of unpaid payroll & severance pay for employees already off-island
 - Others
- IPI Financial Matters
- Other Miscellaneous Matters

V. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- Casino Regulations for Final Adoption - § 175-10.1-2655 Sunset Provision

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Consult with Legal Counsel
- IPI's Appeal of the CCC Final Orders
- Report by the CCC Divisions (Compliance, Audit and Enforcement)
- CCC Personnel Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this Agenda and take action on the amended Agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Rafael S. Demapan
Acting Chairman

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602
Saipan, MP 96950
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Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net
Attorney for Administratrix
Marian A. Kileleman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF)
THE ESTATE OF:) Civil Action
RUFINA SANTOS) No.:20-0381
ATALIG,)
Decedent.) NOTICE
OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Administratrix MARIAN A. KILELEMAN for decree of partial distribution of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 29TH day of July, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at Room 220 Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 9th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

ROBERT T. TORRES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Merced Cepeda Santos

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE)
MATTER OF) CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0216
THE ESTATE OF)
ROSALIA)
SANTOS) NOTICE OF HEARING AND
CEPEDA,) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent.) DATE: August 12, 2021
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ROSALIA SANTOS CEPEDA OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MERCEZ CEPEDA SANTOS has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to ADMIT ESTATE INTO PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX for the Estate of Rosalia Santos Cepeda, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein- above indicated.

Respectfully submitted this ___ day of July 2021.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT/SEPUTY CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Hermès Travel Retail Asia Pte. Ltd. ("Hermès Travel") will file an application for withdrawal as a foreign corporation with the CNMI Department of Commerce, Registrar of Corporations. Hermès Travel is no longer transacting business in the Commonwealth and will surrender its Certificate of Authority. Hermès Travel hereby revokes the authority of its registered agent to accept service on its behalf. Pursuant to 4 CMC § 4661, the Registrar of Corporations is appointed its agent for service of process in any proceeding based on a cause of action during the time it was authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth.

BOE checks NMTI summer program

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini, vice chair Herman Atalig, and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada dropped by the Northern Marianas Technical Institute yesterday as part of efforts to expand the partnership between the Public School System and NMTI.

The three PSS officials sat in on classes that were in progress as part of NMTI's summer program for 40 Tanapag Middle School students and also visited NMTI's culinary, automotive, welding, electronics, and construction classes.

In a brief interview with Orsini, he spoke on the need to further develop the local workforce. He said it is important that he and the board think futuristically when it comes to PSS students, and see the need to develop the CNMI's local workforce in



Members of the Board of Education and some members of CNMI Public School System leadership check in on the classroom of Northern Marianas Technical Institute's culinary instructor Chef Ben Babauta Jr. yesterday morning.

the long-term. "We never know. ...The foreign labor that [the CNMI has] right now is good, but we don't know when [a] phase-out [of these foreign workers] may occur. If that happens, at least we're prepared with our local people," said Orsini.

Orsini said he was pleased with what he saw yester-

day and hopes to see more opportunities in the future. "Hopefully next year we can [expand] more into these, and I think it's great because all the students we've met so far from our visit at [the Northern Marianas College] and then over here, I think it's a wonderful thing, it's a beautiful thing," said Orsini.

Andersen AFB economic impact reaches \$197.2M in 2020

By **AUBREE OWENS**
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In 2020, the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam had a \$197.2 million economic impact on Guam's economy, according to the base's economic analysis released January 2021.

The report showed 6,169 total personnel within Andersen AFB, including 2,443 appropriated fund military, meaning active duty Air Force, Navy, Reserve and National Guard, 550 rotational members deployed to Guam, 2,529

active duty dependents and 647 appropriated funds civilian personnel.

It indicated an annual federal payroll of \$166.1 million amongst all personnel. Additionally, it showed Andersen AFB created approximately \$38.8 million in jobs.

"We put money into positions and by doing so, it impacts the community by generating jobs and stimulating the community," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Leon Yang, 36th Comptroller Squadron budget analyst. "Each position we hire, to include military

positions have dollar amounts posted to them."

The annual report is intended to provide information about the economic impact of Andersen AFB on the surrounding community.



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
DEQ Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540
DCRM Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.deq.gov.mp and www.crm.gov.mp



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator
Zabrina C. Shai
Acting Director, DEQ
Janice Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WATER QUALITY STANDARDS EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD RESCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION: The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Office of the Governor, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) intends to amend the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Standards regulations pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 1 CMC § 9104(a). The proposed amendments pertain to the requirement set forth in the federal Clean Water Act that States and Territories periodically review their Water Quality Standards, make any necessary changes, and provide for an opportunity for public comment.

The proposed amendment was published in an addendum to the June 2021 edition of the Commonwealth Register. In order to provide the public with additional time to review the proposed amendments and provide comments, BECQ is further extending the public comment period. Additionally, the public hearing that was originally scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021 has been rescheduled in order to provide the public with additional time to review the proposed amendments and relevant documents prior to the hearing.

COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed amendments to Larry Maurin, DEQ Water Quality Surveillance/Non-Point Source Branch Manager, to the following address, fax, or email address, with the subject line "Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Standards."

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY
PO Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 664-8540
Email: larry.maurin@becq.gov.mp

Comments are due by **5pm ChST on Friday, September 3rd, 2021**. In addition, the public hearing has been rescheduled to Thursday, September 2nd, 2021 at 5:00pm in DEQ's main conference room on the second floor of the Gualo Rai Center in Gualo Rai, Saipan. 1 CMC § 9104(a)(2). The public hearing will be accessible online via GoogleMeet at the following link: <https://meet.google.com/nwe-qkyw-jco>



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority Office of the Governor "Driving You Forward"



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority would like to notify the General Public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment-1. A Copy of the plan can be obtained at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. Written comments must be submitted directly to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, 2nd Floor Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe or via email to: Special Assistant for Public Transportation, alfredac.maratita@gov.mp no later than **August 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Should you have any questions regarding COTA (TIP), you may contact the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at 664-2682. The Following are listed in the TIP Amendment-1

**CNMI Office of the Governor, The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority 4-year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan:
PROJECT FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Authority (FTA)**

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) FY2020-2023 Amendment #1						
District	Project Description	Type of Work	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
SAIPAN	COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility	CM	\$590,000.00			
		Construction	\$3,500,000.00			
SAIPAN	A/E Design for the Fixed Route Bus Stops	PE Design			\$300,000.00	
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of Thirty-Seven (37) Fixed Route Bus Stop Shelters	Construction			\$800,000.00	
		CM			\$209,500.00	
SAIPAN	Purchase of Twelve (12) Medium-Duty ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Buses for the Fixed Route	Rolling Stock		\$2,102,967.00		
SAIPAN	Construction of Bus Transfer Stations at the Northern Marianas College, Paseo De Marianas and Kagman	PE Design			\$70,000.00	
		Construction				\$700,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply of Maintenance Equipment & Tools for COTA Maintenance Facility	CM			\$400,000.00	\$130,000.00
SAIPAN	Construction of the COTA Bus Covered Parking Structure	PE Design			\$351,000.00	
		Construction				\$2,700,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of 187 Bus Stop Shelters on Public Transit Fixed Route	PE Design			\$350,000.00	
		Construction				\$3,500,000.00
Rota	Design & Construction of the Rota Transit Maintenance Facility	CM			\$40,000.00	\$650,000.00
		Construction				\$400,000.00
Tinian	Design & Construction of the Tinian Transit Maintenance Facility	PE Design			\$40,000.00	\$80,000.00
		Construction				\$400,000.00
Rota & Tinian	Procurement of Four (4) ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Vans for Rota and Tinian Demand Responsive Services	Rolling Stock			\$480,000.00	
Saipan	CNMI COVID-19 Research Demonstration	Research			\$300,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION			\$4,090,000.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$3,340,500.00	\$8,940,000.00
Funding Source			FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
MP-04-0002-00 (Veterans Transportation One-Call/One-Click)			\$710,223.00			
MP-2019-001-00 (49 U.S.C. Section 5339- Bus and Bus Facilities)			\$3,224,567.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$1,009,500.00	
MP-18-X008-00 (Bus: Support Equipment, Facilities, and Operating Assistance)			\$155,210.00			
49 U.S.C. Section 5324: Federal Transit Administration Emergency Relief Program					\$351,000.00	
49 U.S.C. Section 5312: Covid-19 Research Demonstration					\$300,000.00	
H.R. 3684 INVEST in America Act					\$1,680,000.00	\$8,940,000.00
TOTAL OBLIGATION			\$4,090,000.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$3,340,500.00	\$8,940,000.00

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-DCCA/DYS-122
 SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 11, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"TO DEVELOP DYS DATABASE PROGRAM
FOR REPORTING PURPOSES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE KAGMAN COMMUNITY CENTER, SAIPAN ON **AUGUST 03, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. VIVIAN T. SABLON, DYS ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA EMAIL TO vsablon@dys.gov.mp OR BE DROPPED OFF AT THE DYS MAIN OFFICE IN CAPITOL HILL, **NO LATER THAN AUGUST 05, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS VIA EMAIL.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Opinion

Hafa Adair Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 145

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The case for vaccine mandates

In much of America, vaccine hesitancy has turned into vaccine defiance. Several states have banned or are considering banning demands by businesses that people show proof of vaccination. Tennessee—where only 38% of adults are fully inoculated and the COVID-19 caseload is growing fast—has gone so far as to cancel public schools' efforts to encourage eligible children to get their shots (including flu shots). For good measure, the state has fired its medical director for vaccine programs.

These actions make it harder to protect the public from COVID-19 as the highly infectious delta variant spreads. States should instead be issuing their own vaccine passports, and requiring health-care workers to be vaccinated—as President Emmanuel Macron has done in France. President Joe Biden should go beyond cajoling the vaccine-hesitant and call on hospitals and nursing homes across the U.S. to insist that their employees get their shots.

The health-care industry is the best place to start issuing vaccine mandates. A handful of hospital systems have already imposed them—and proved they work. The Houston Methodist system, the first to act, retained all but 153 of its 26,000 employees as it pushed its vaccination rate from 85% to 100% (with about 600 staffers allowed medical or religious exemptions). A lawsuit brought by employees wanting to work unvaccinated failed.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has confirmed that employers have the authority to require that their workers be vaccinated—even though COVID-19 vaccines still have only emergency-use approval from the Food and Drug Administration. As the FDA works on granting full approval by the end of summer, hospitals and nursing homes should move ahead with mandates, as epidemiologists and infectious disease doctors have urged.

Many colleges and universities are also demanding that students, faculty and staff be vaccinated. On Monday a federal judge upheld Indiana University's mandate. Some banks are requiring employees to disclose their vaccination status. Morgan Stanley has told its workers to get their shots or stay home. It makes sense for companies of all kinds to allow only vaccinated employees to work alongside others.

The U.S. has made impressive progress toward defeating COVID-19. Although not quite 60% of adults are fully vaccinated, almost 80% of those over 65 are. So even as the delta variant spreads, the most vulnerable are well protected. Because COVID tends to be less severe in younger adults and children, rising caseloads pose less risk than before of overwhelming hospitals. Even so, cases are rising (up 70% over the past week) and so are hospital admissions and deaths (up 36% and 26%, respectively). The surge is occurring almost entirely among the unvaccinated.

To discourage people from their getting their shots is unconscionable. But it's no longer good enough to simply call on the vaccine-hesitant to protect themselves and others. Hospitals, schools and businesses are within their rights to insist on vaccinations—and ought to be doing just that.

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Preparing for Tokyo's 'Quiet Olympics'

By DAVID LEON MOORE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I didn't see much TV coverage of the U.S. Olympic track and field trials last month in Oregon. But one scene caught my eye.

It was good "old" Allyson Felix, finishing second in the women's 400-meter run, earning her fifth trip to the Olympics.

I first interviewed Felix when she was a 17-year-old sprint sensation at Los Angeles Baptist High School and still called "Chicken Legs" by her teammates. It was heartwarming to see Felix, now 35 and a mother, bring her 2-year-old daughter, Camryn, onto the track and include her in the post-race spotlight and show everyone for the umpteenth time that it is possible to be a mother and one of the best athletes in the world.

Felix, the only woman to win six gold medals in Olympic track and field history, could very well win another medal in Tokyo. But neither her daughter nor the rest of her family will be a part of the celebration.

There are no family members allowed at these Olympics. In fact, no fans at all. Tokyo organizers have barred all spectators, for fear of these Games turning into a superspreader event in a nation that has lagged behind in vaccination against COVID-19.

Of course, we can still watch the Olympics on TV. There was simply way too much money to be made by too many people, mostly from global broadcast rights, for the Games to be canceled outright. But these Games will be very different from all others. These will be a sort of soundstage Olympics—the Quiet Games, if you will—and that's kind of a shame.

These athletes have trained much of their lives for competition that begins this weekend. Now, the climactic event of a young athlete's career and ... no family members allowed.

Pat Forde is one of the few parents who will be allowed to watch in person. He will be an accredited journalist in Tokyo, writing for Sports Illustrated. His daughter, Brooke, is a member of the U.S. Olympic swimming team. The rest of their family will watch on TV.

"That's difficult, no doubt," he says. "Starting with my wife, who cannot be there. I have a touch of survivor's guilt being able to go."

I covered 16 consecutive Olympics, winter and summer—from Los Angeles in 1984 to Sochi, Russia, in 2014—and I think the biggest thing Tokyo will lack is the Olympic atmosphere that arises in a host city, inside and outside the competition areas.

Every Olympics has its problems. But, without exception, the Games I went to had a feeling of international camaraderie and good vibes unequaled by the hundreds of major events I covered

around the world for nearly 40 years.

I used to arrive a week or so early to the Olympics, and I would immediately scout out the venues I was going to cover once the competition began.

They would be in various stages of readiness. Some needed just a little paint or landscaping. Some needed food stands or restrooms to be completed. Some needed whole grandstands to be erected. All of them were missing an Olympic venue's greatest asset—spectators. The crowds would eventually show up, of course, sometimes in stages, getting larger by the day. Some venues would stand out and, through word of mouth, earn a reputation as the place to be at the Games.

Nowhere was this more true than at the beach volleyball competition at Bondi Beach during the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia.

In the days leading up to the competition, the weather was a bit dreary and the beach fairly empty outside the stadium that had been built smack dab in the middle of the gorgeous strip of sand. But then the sun came out, and ticket holders started trickling, then pouring, in. Pretty soon, Bondi had become one raucous, sandy mosh pit of an Olympic venue.

If I close my eyes and think back 21 years, I can still hear the crowd of 10,000 fans sounding like 100,000 as they serenade the top Australian women's beach pair, Kerri Pottharst and Natalie Cook, with countless chants of, "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!"

In the women's final, the Aussies, behind thunderous crowd support, upset Brazilian stars Shelda Bede and Adriana Behar for one of the most celebrated gold medals at the Sydney Games.

Japanese athletes will get no such advantage at the Tokyo Games. They know their fellow Japanese citizens will be pulling for them, but it's a lot different to look around and see cold camera lenses where encouraging and possibly familiar faces would otherwise be.

"There will definitely be a missing element of adrenaline and excitement," Forde says. "My hope is that the competitions will still be excellent and memorable."

My guess is they will be. There will definitely be some fear and anxiety at these Games, and there will be plenty of people who still believe that the whole thing should have been canceled.

But I predict triumph and joy, too. After all, it's still the Olympics. I've found that you attach those five interlocking rings, and magic happens.

David Leon Moore, a journalist, covered 16 Olympics as a sports writer for USA Today. He lives in Manzanita, Ore.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why you should forget about that pandemic weight gain and cut yourself some slack

Buried in the sweetness of a return to some sort of pre-pandemic life is the dread of something less palatable: an uncomfortable date with my scale. I know it's going to tell me I've gained 10 pounds. And with that knowledge, there's a fleeting thought that maybe I'm not ready to put on a public face, at least not yet—not while I'm looking like this.

Before you judge me, know that I'm really not a shallow person. Honest. I'm at a place in my life where I rarely worry about what other people think of me, because I know how rarely they do. I even teach mindfulness and self-compassion to other health care workers, showing them how to handle their negative self-talk with grace and gentleness. So why let a modest weight gain during a planetary crisis get under my skin?

I'm hardly alone in my up-a-size boat. A research letter recently published in *JAMA* suggests that Americans who sheltered in place gained an average of 20 pounds during the pandemic. And perhaps I'm primed to be even more sensitive, because like 9% of the population worldwide, I once struggled with an eating disorder. It's a part of my life I consider to be over, the work done to leave it in the past. But even when old habits die, their shadows often linger.

Is a bit of regression really so shocking, in light of everything we've been through in the past 18 months? We've homeschooled kids, cared for elderly parents, learned to live with fear and uncertainty and, in far too many cases, lost people we love. It's common for my colleagues and I to dutifully say to one another, "Well, at least we still have our health."

Or do we? In the spring, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune

disease. Even though my mindfulness practice gives me meaningful relief, I often wonder what role chronic stress (or asymptomatic COVID-19) could have played in that condition—and what role it may have in aggravating my ongoing symptoms and even weight gain.

The deeper truth is that the unrelenting, toxic pressure of living through the pandemic has affected our health in myriad ways.

Those who experienced financial instability, personal illness or loss, complex grief and moral injury will likely show a wide array of physical and mental health effects in the years to come. Some groups have borne some of the worst stress and trauma, especially communities of color that have been disproportionately affected by COVID. Many of us may find we need to tend to old injuries that have suddenly flared up.

But too often, we fail to tend to those injuries at all. We restrict, we repress, we fixate, we berate, aiming a stream of vitriol squarely at ourselves for not being thinner or stronger or tougher or better able to take the blows as they come. I did that for years.

These summer mornings, my extra 10 pounds and I get up early and walk my dog along the shoreline of the lake where I bring my family every year for a few weeks of reprieve. I sit on a bench while my pup's fleshy petal of a tongue licks my forearm.

During this COVID marathon, I feel like I'm finally coming up for air, a pebble settling in water, no longer clenched like a fist. I'm remembering that there is a place beyond this tension, that before the pandemic I found peace in my life, and I will find it in the aftermath, too.

I had a friend in university who loved to feed me. I think of her every time I smell the first hint of garlic spitting in a slick of

By JILLIAN HORTON

Los Angeles Times



*Jillian Horton is a Canadian physician and writer. She is the author of *We Are All Perfectly Fine: A Memoir of Love, Medicine and Healing*. @jillianhortonMD*

hot oil: the Indigo Girls on in the background, my friend saying shyly, "I'd never go to all this trouble just for myself." I always wondered, what did she eat when I wasn't around—concrete paste and water? Why did she need me there just to do something nice for herself?

For everyone who has been more tightly coiled during the pandemic, whatever demon you are carrying, may you find a way to do something nice for yourself this summer, something that reminds you that, yes, you are worth a little bit of trouble.

And you know what else? Nobody cares if you gained 10 pounds, or more; almost nobody will even notice if you emerge looking generally like a swamp creature. Of course we should all eventually try to get back to a healthier weight, but I'm not going to preach—only offer a gentle reminder.

If you think you'll finally approve of yourself when you lose weight or write that bestselling book or run a marathon, you have it backward. Start by cutting yourself a little slack. Everything else may just fall into place.

Will flood politics change Germany and the world?

There she was again, the proverbial mother of the nation, walking somberly through the rubble and mud of a nearly destroyed town called Schuld, which happens to be German for "guilt."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, two months before an election that will usher her out of politics and into retirement, has done her best to stay aloof from the campaign to succeed her. But the natural disaster that struck her country last week left her no choice but to wade in.

The regions along the Rhine and its tributaries haven't seen flooding on this scale in centuries, if ever. As the death toll in Germany and Belgium creeps toward 200, with many victims still missing, the torrents seem to some residents like the beginning of a medieval morality play. Is the story of Schuld, like that in Genesis 6-9, one of God punishing humanity for polluting His creation?

So far, Germans, like many other people in rich countries, have thought about climate change in largely abstract terms, as afflicting mainly poor places like Bangladesh and Burundi, or threatening exotic islands like the Maldives. But now—and sooner than I recall even the scientists predicting—the whole world seems to be out of whack, even prosperous spots like Germany.

When northern reaches like Siberia, Finland and the Pacific Northwest swelter under heat domes or burn in purgatory-like fires; when well-built split-timber houses in the Rhineland are swept from their foundations while people are sleeping in them, it's time to revisit old assumptions.

One political effect of these disasters is to turn something abstract—the greenhouse effect and global warming—into something concrete: individual human suffering that also stands as a moral indictment of our societies. Not far from Schuld, for example, a flash flood washed through a care home for disabled people, drowning 12 of them. The neighbors heard them shrieking in their death throes.

Another effect is to move public debate beyond the hair-splitting that followed previous cataclysms—whether this is about the climate or merely the weather, about a mega-trend or just

an event. Technically, no individual calamity can be blamed on man-made greenhouse gases. And yet the science is so clear about how global warming is causing these catastrophes to proliferate. The pedants no longer have a leg to stand on.

The immediate electoral implications are less clear. It used to be a rule of thumb that any natural disaster was also an opportunity for incumbent politicians to show their empathy and competence, and thus to score points.

After a flood in 2002, for example, Merkel's predecessor, Gerhard Schroeder, waded in rubber boots through the mud to shake hands, a gesture that helped him win reelection that year. Merkel did something similar after flooding in 2013, just before that year's election. So the candidates of the three parties leading in the German polls also dropped everything to tour the flood zones, hoping to look leader-like.

Armin Laschet of the center-right Christian Democrats should have had an advantage in these photo ops. As premier of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state as well as one of the worst hit, he is the only incumbent executive in charge of a regional government in this race. And yet he squandered his opportunity when he was observed giggling with others in the background as Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany's president, groped for solemn words in the foreground. Laschet remains odds-on to become the next chancellor. But the contrast between his bearing and Merkel's dignified poise in Schuld won't help him.

Nor is it clear that the Greens, runners-up in the polls, will gain much. Fighting climate change is their brand, so a flood should boost them, at least temporarily. And yet their candidate, Annalena Baerbock, has made her own blunders of late, and the Greens, at about 18%, trail the Christian Democrats by 10 points.

The bigger problem for voters—in Germany as elsewhere—is that floods, fires, droughts and other climate-caused disasters don't give simple and clear policy instructions, and certainly not partisan advice. Aside from the populist fringes, all parties in the German mainstream nowadays agree that the objective is to eliminate the country's net emissions, by 2045 at the latest. The differences are in how to achieve this goal, and how to bal-

By ANDREAS KLUTH

Bloomberg Opinion



*Andreas Kluth is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. He was previously editor in chief of *Handelsblatt Global* and a writer for *the Economist*. He's the author of *Hannibal and Me*.*

ance it against others including social cohesion and economic competitiveness.

The center-right parties emphasize market-friendly mechanisms such as a carbon price, while conceding that some other restrictions will also be necessary. The center-left parties are the reverse, eyeing more direct state intervention such as bans on combustion engines or short-haul flights in addition to a higher carbon price.

To lay people, these are nuances, rather than stark alternatives. That explains why many Germans currently want the next government to be a joint effort between the Christian Democrats and the Greens.

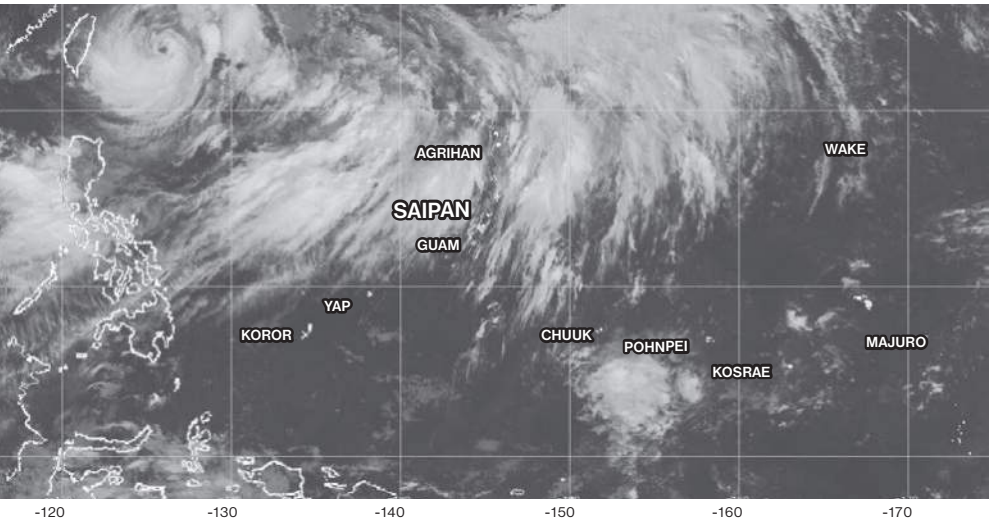
Despite the shock of the deluge, Germans are also wary about responding too radically to any one catastrophe. Many remember Germany's abrupt exit from nuclear power following the meltdown in Fukushima a decade ago, an overreaction that in hindsight made decarbonizing Germany's electricity grid unnecessarily hard.

This year's floods and other disasters are convincing ever more people that resisting climate change deserves to be our political priority, even in times of pandemic and geopolitical upheaval. But they are also a reminder how painful our trade-offs will be.

This summer, many Germans are feeling understandably overwhelmed—and suspecting that their leaders are no different. No matter how September's election turns out, the fate of Schuld suggests that humanity has a lot more atoning left to do.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
85°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:42 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest satellite imagery and surface analysis shows a monsoon trough well to the north of the islands, parallelling 20N, with another east-west trough near the CNMI lifting northward. Waves of heavy showers within the southwesterly monsoon flow are found between 15N and 20N. While mostly cloudy skies are seen over Guam and the CNMI, more showers and some thunderstorms are present to the west, moving toward the islands and crossing 140E. Seas remain quiet at 3 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Showers	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Showers	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:37 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	-	5:41 AM	7:10 PM
Sunday	-	6:44 AM	8:02 PM
Monday	-	7:44 AM	8:48 PM
Tuesday	-	8:40 AM	9:29 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 50°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 36°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	83° / 68°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59°	
Busan	Showers	82° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	93° / 73°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	87° / 69°	
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 55°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°	
Tokyo	Rain	84° / 73°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	87° / 68°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:42 AM	Low Tide	1.48	
5:38 AM	High Tide	2.19	
1:12 PM	Low Tide	-0.40	
8:28 PM	High Tide	2.11	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Panda House transforms to a French brasserie

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

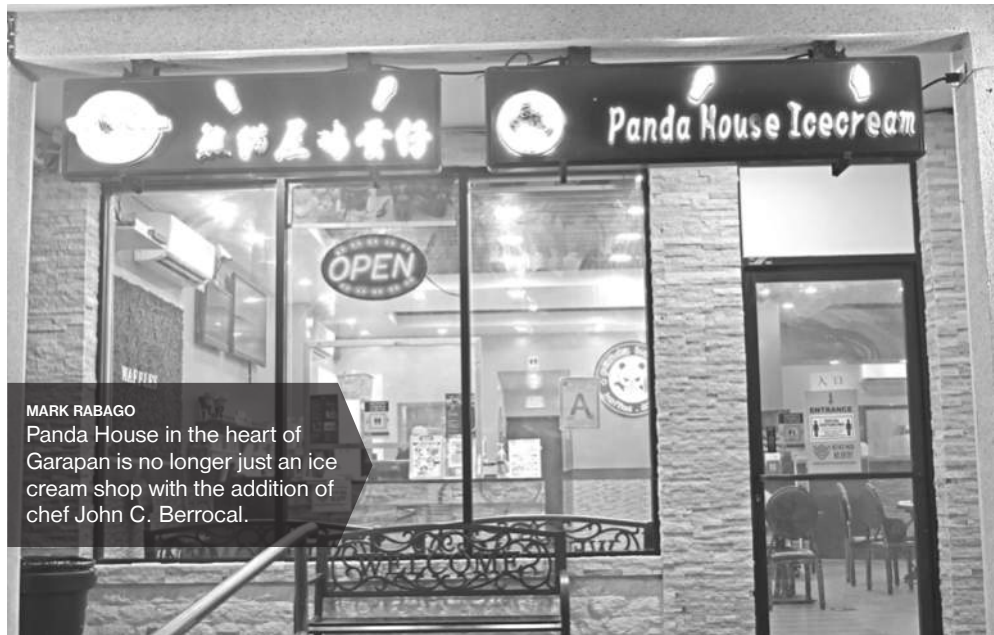
Panda House is no longer just a waffle and ice cream shop as chef John C. Berrocal has returned to Saipan and has reinvented the Garapan hot spot.

Berrocal, a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Paris, France, said the new Panda House had a soft-opening last July 9 and its new look and new menu has attracted a fair number of local customers.

"Panda House was just an ice cream shop and now we turned it into a sort of French brasserie, which is a restaurant with a relaxed setting that serves single dishes and other fast-food-type meals," he said.

To touch up Panda House's all-dessert menu, Berrocal has introduced such classics like hot wings, calamari, and Italian fries as well as new signature dishes like Andean Fried Chicken, Panda Supreme Burger, and Chicken Spiedies.

"We got very good starters—small plates. We have



MARK RABAGO
Panda House in the heart of Garapan is no longer just an ice cream shop with the addition of chef John C. Berrocal.

a very a tasty burger, Italian chicken sandwich, we have two kinds of chicken wings, fritters, and we have fried calamari."

And Berrocal's pizzas are no slouches either. If there's one thing the acclaimed chef perfected in his brief sojourn on Rota, it was making pizza. Hands down, early reviews,

say that Panda House's Italian artisan pizzas are the best in town. They come in Boscaiola, Americana, Rustica, and, of course, Margherita.

True to its new French brasserie identity, Panda House will also soon serve alcohol. After all, "brasserie" in French actually means "brewery."

"We would eventually serve

cocktails, beer, and wines that will complement the small plates we already serve like our hot chicken wings, pizza, burgers, and the likes," he said.

For the old ice cream shop, Berrocal has also introduced a new stylish dessert—the Belgian King Waffle, which is a waffle ice cream served in a French style, with chopped fruits like bananas, strawberries, and blueberries slathered in decadent chocolate and whipped cream.

"We want to have everything for everyone. The old Panda House was just a dessert place but with this new menu we've totally transformed it into a restaurant with an American diner feel, aside from the French brasserie look. It's essentially entrées and desserts under one roof now," he said.



MARK RABAGO
Chef John C. Berrocal with staff of Panda House.



MARK RABAGO

Panda House's Panda Supreme Burger, Belgian King Waffle, and Boscaiola pizza.

Also on the pipeline is Saporì, which will be a contemporary Italian and Peruvian seafood steakhouse that Berrocal will open next door to Panda House. Saporì translates to "flavor" that pretty much sums up Berrocal's ideas for a new fine-dining restaurant.

Panda House is located next to I Love Saipan in Garapan and across the Bubba Gump Restaurant. It is open Sunday to Thursday from 11am to 9pm and Saturday and Friday from 11am to 10pm. For reservations or for more information, call 233-5527.

US airlines say COVID-19 variants aren't hurting bookings

Rising concern about the fast-spreading delta variant of COVID-19 is creating turbulence for the stocks of big travel companies, but airline executives say they don't see any slowdown in ticket sales, maybe because a high percentage of their best customers are fully

vaccinated.

"We haven't seen any impact at all on bookings, which continue to just get stronger and stronger every week," United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby said Wednesday.

Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said the same thing last week, although he add-

ed that variants were continuing to hobble international travel by delaying the opening of borders.

More than 2 million people a day, mostly summer vacationers, are packing U.S. airports. That is a turnaround from the lockdown summer of 2020. (AP)

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-MOT/TDLNR-138
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 23, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

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Nation

US virus cases nearly triple in 2 weeks amid misinformation

MISSION, Kan. (AP)—COVID-19 cases nearly tripled in the U.S. over two weeks amid an onslaught of vaccine misinformation that is straining hospitals, exhausting doctors and pushing clergy into the fray. “Our staff, they are frustrated,” said Chad Neilsen, director of infection prevention at

UF Health Jacksonville, a Florida hospital that is canceling elective surgeries and procedures after the number of mostly unvaccinated COVID-19 inpatients at its two campuses jumped to 134, up from a low of 16 in mid-May.

“They are tired. They are thinking this is déjà vu all over

again, and there is some anger because we know that this is a largely preventable situation, and people are not taking advantage of the vaccine.”

Across the U.S., the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases rose over the past two weeks to more than 37,000 on Tuesday, up from less than

13,700 on July 6, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Health officials blame the delta variant and slowing vaccination rates. Just 56.2% of Americans have gotten at least one dose of the vaccine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Louisiana, health officials

reported 5,388 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday—the third-highest daily count since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020. Hospitalizations for the disease rose to 844 statewide, up more than 600 since mid-June. New Orleans leaders urged people to resume wearing masks indoors.

Utah reported having 295 people hospitalized due to the virus, the highest number since February. The state has averaged about 622 confirmed cases per day over the last week, about triple the infection rate at

its lowest point in early June. Health data shows the surge is almost entirely connected to unvaccinated people.

“It is like seeing the car wreck before it happens,” said Dr. James Williams, a clinical associate professor of emergency medicine at Texas Tech, who has recently started treating more COVID-19 patients. “None of us want to go through this again.”

He said the patients are younger—many in their 20s, 30s and 40s—and overwhelmingly unvaccinated.

Western wildfires: California blaze crosses into Nevada



Firefighters battle the Sugar Fire, part of the Beckwourth Complex Fire, in Plumas National Forest, Calif., on Thursday, July 8, 2021.

GARDNERVILLE, Nev. (AP)—A Northern California wildfire crossed into Nevada, prompting new evacuations, but better weather has been helping crews battling the nation's largest blaze in southern Oregon.

The Tamarack Fire south of Lake Tahoe had burned more than 68 square miles (176 square kilometers) of timber and head-high chaparral in national forest land. It erupted on July 4 and was one of nearly two dozen blazes sparked by lightning strikes.

More than 1,200 firefighters were battling the Alpine County blaze, which has destroyed at least 10 buildings, forced evacuations in several communities and had closed parts of U.S. 395 in Nevada and California. Fire officials expected active or extreme fire behavior on Thursday, which could see 14-mph winds and temperatures approaching 90 degrees.

A request for voluntary evacuations was also issued for portions of Douglas County, Nevada. An evacuation center was set up at a community center in Gardnerville, Nevada.

Evacuee Morgana-Le-Fae Veatch said she already had boxed up most of her belongings because she is starting community college next week but her parents lost their house in a 1987 blaze.

“So this has been really, really stressing to them,” she said.

Meanwhile, Oregon on Wednesday banned all campfires on state-managed lands and in state campgrounds east of Interstate 5, the major highway that is commonly considered the dividing line between the wet western part of the state and the dry eastern half.

The nation's largest wildfire, Oregon's Bootleg Fire, grew to 618 square miles (1,601 square kilometers)—

just over half the size of Rhode Island.

However, authorities said lower winds and temperatures allowed crews to improve fire lines. The fire also was approaching an area burned by a previous fire on its active southeastern flank, raising hopes that lack of fuel could reduce its spread.

The Oregon fire, which was sparked by lightning, has ravaged the sparsely populated southern part of the state and had been expanding by up to 4 miles (6 kilometers) a day, pushed by strong winds and critically dry weather that turned trees and undergrowth into a tinderbox.

Fire crews have had to retreat from the flames for 10 consecutive days as fireballs jump from treetop to treetop, trees explode, embers fly ahead of the fire to start new blazes and, in some cases, the inferno's heat creates its own weather of shifting winds and

dry lightning. Monstrous clouds of smoke and ash have risen up to 6 miles (10 kilometers) into the sky and are visible for more than 100 air miles (161 kilometers).

The blaze, which is being fought by more than 2,200 people, is about one-third contained.

At least 2,000 homes were ordered evacuated at some point during the fire and an additional 5,000 were threatened. At least 70 homes and more than 100 outbuildings have burned, but no one is known to have died.

Extremely dry conditions and recent heat waves tied to climate change have made wildfires harder to fight. Climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman dead, 3 missing after flooding in Colorado burn area

RUSTIC, Colo. (AP)—A woman was found dead and three other people were missing after rain triggered flooding and mudslides in an area of northern Colorado burned by a large wildfire last year, authorities said Wednesday. The woman's body was found near the small community of Rustic, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) northwest of Denver, after a mudslide sent a large amount of debris into a scenic, winding canyon Tuesday evening, the Larimer County Sheriff's Office said. At least five houses were destroyed, and a private bridge was damaged in the flooding, sheriff's Capt. Joe Shellhammer told the Coloradoan newspaper in Fort Collins. Crews recovered the woman's body from the Cache la Poudre River that runs through Poudre Canyon west of Fort Collins, while crews on foot searched for two missing men and another woman with help from drones, the sheriff's office said.

Infrastructure bill fails first vote; Senate to try again

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans rejected an effort Wednesday to begin debate on the big infrastructure deal that a bipartisan group of senators brokered with President Joe Biden, but pressure was mounting as supporters insisted they just needed more time before another vote possibly next week. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., had scheduled the procedural vote to nudge along negotiations that have dragged for weeks. But Republicans mounted a filibuster, saying the bipartisan group still had a few unresolved issues and needed to review the final details. They sought a delay until Monday. “We have made significant progress and

are close to a final agreement,” the bipartisan group of senators, 11 Republicans and 11 Democrats, said in a joint statement after the vote. The senators said they were optimistic they could finish up “in the coming days.” The nearly \$1 trillion measure over five years includes about \$579 billion in new spending on roads, broadband and other public works projects—a first phase of Biden's infrastructure agenda, to be followed by a much broader \$3.5 trillion measure from Democrats next month.

PG&E will spend at least \$15 billion burying power lines

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—Pacific Gas & Electric plans to bury 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometers) of its power lines in an effort to prevent its fraying grid from sparking wildfires when electrical equipment collides with millions of trees and other vegetation across drought-stricken California. The daunting project announced Wednesday aims to bury about 10% of PG&E's distribution and transmission lines at a projected cost of \$15 billion to as much as \$30 billion, based on how much the process currently costs. The utility believes it will find ways to keep the final bill at the lower end of those estimates. Most of the costs will likely be shouldered by PG&E customers, whose electricity rates are already among the highest in the U.S. PG&E stepped up its safety commitment just days after informing regulators a 70-foot (23-meter) pine tree that toppled on one of its power lines ignited a major fire in Butte County, the same rural area about 145 miles (233 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco where another fire sparked by its equipment in 2018 killed more than 80 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

Asia

China blasts dam to divert floods that killed at least 25

BEIJING (AP)—China's military has blasted a dam to release floodwaters threatening one of the country's most heavily populated provinces, as the death toll from the widespread flooding rose to at least 25.

The dam operation was carried out late Tuesday night in the city of Luoyang, just as severe flooding overwhelmed the Henan provincial capital of Zhengzhou, trapping residents in the subway system and stranding them at schools, apartments and offices.

Another seven people were reported missing, provincial officials said at a news conference.

A video posted on Twitter by news site The Paper showed subway passengers standing in chest-high muddy brown water as torrents raged in the tunnel outside.



Transport and work have been disrupted throughout the province, with rain turning streets into rapidly flowing

rivers, washing away cars and rising into people's homes.

At least 10 trains carrying about 10,000 passengers were

halted, including three for more than 40 hours, according to Caixin, a business news magazine. Sections of 26 highways

AP
People walk through floodwaters along a street in Zhengzhou in central China's Henan Province, Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

were closed due to the rain, the Transport Ministry said on its social media account.

A blackout shut down ventilators at the First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, forcing staff to use hand-pumped airbags to help patients breathe, according to the city's Communist Party committee. It said more than 600 patients were being transferred to other hospitals.

A woman aboard a subway in a flooded tunnel told her husband the water almost reached her neck and passengers had trouble breathing, the Henan Business Daily newspaper reported.

It said staff at a subway station told her husband all passengers had been evacuated but acknowledged that wasn't so after he started a video chat with his wife on his cellphone showing she still was aboard.

The precise times and locations of the deaths and disap-

pearances weren't immediately clear, although the province said more than 100,000 people have been evacuated to safety.

Henan province has many cultural sites and is a major base for industry and agriculture. It is crisscrossed by multiple waterways, many of them linked to the Yellow River, which has a long history of bursting its banks during periods of intensive rainfall.

State media on Wednesday showed waters at waist height, with rain still coming down.

To the north of Zhengzhou, the famed Shaolin Temple, known for its Buddhist monks' mastery of martial arts, was also badly hit.

China routinely experiences floods during the summer, but the growth of cities and conversion of farmland into subdivisions has worsened the impact of such events.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent a letter to China's President Xi Jinping "to convey his heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of lives and devastation," U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said Wednesday.

Death rates soar in Southeast Asia as virus wave spreads

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Indonesia has converted nearly its entire oxygen production to medical use just to meet the demand from COVID-19 patients struggling to breathe. Overflowing hospitals in Malaysia had to resort to treating patients on the floor. And in Myanmar's largest city, graveyard workers have been laboring day and night to keep up with the grim demand for new cremations and burials.

Images of bodies burning in open-air pyres during the peak of the pandemic in India horrified the world in May, but in the last two weeks the three Southeast Asian nations have now all surpassed India's peak per capita death rate as a new coronavirus wave, fueled by the virulent delta variant, tightens its grip on the region.

The deaths have followed record numbers of new cases being reported in countries across the region which have left health care systems struggling to cope and governments scrambling to implement new restrictions to try to slow the spread.

When Eric Lam tested positive for COVID-19 and was hospitalized on June 17 in the Malaysian state of Selangor, the center of the country's outbreak, the corridors of the government facility were already crowded with patients on beds

with no room left in the wards.

The situation was still better than in some other hospitals in Selangor, Malaysia's richest and most populous state, where there were no free beds at all and patients were reportedly treated on floors or on stretchers. The government has since added more hospital beds and converted more wards for COVID-19 patients.

Lam, 38, recalled once during his three weeks in the hospital hearing a machine beeping continuously for two hours before a nurse came to turn it off; he later learned the patient had died.

A variety of factors have contributed to the recent surge in the region, including people growing weary of the pandemic and letting precautions slip, low vaccination rates and the emergence of the delta variant of the virus, which was first detected in India, said Abhishek Rimal, the Asia-Pacific emergency health coordinator for the Red Cross, who is based in Malaysia.

"With the measures that countries are taking, if people follow the basics of washing the hands, wearing the masks, keeping distance and getting vaccinated, we will be seeing a decline in cases in the next couple of weeks from now," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China rebuffs WHO on call for further COVID-19 origins study

BEIJING (AP)—China cannot accept the World Health Organization's plan for the second phase of a study into the origins of COVID-19, a senior Chinese health official said Thursday. Zeng Yixin, the vice minister of the National Health Commission, said he was "rather taken aback" by the call for a further into the pandemic's origins and specifically, the theory that the virus might have leaked from a Chinese lab. He dismissed the lab leak theory as a rumor that runs counter to common sense and science. "It is impossible for us to accept such an origin-tracing plan," he said at a news conference called to address the COVID-19 origins issue. The search for the origins of the virus has become a diplomatic issue that has worsened China's relations with the U.S. and many of its allies. The U.S. and others say that China has not been transparent about what happened in the early days of the pandemic. China accuses critics of politicizing an issue that should be left to scientists.

US, S. Korea say they'll push North to return to nuke talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Top U.S. and South Korean officials agreed Thursday to try to convince North Korea to return to talks on its nuclear program, which Pyongyang has insisted it won't do in protest of what it calls U.S. hostility. U.S. Dep-

uty Secretary of State Wendy Sherman was in Seoul as part of her regional tour that will take her to China this weekend. She'll be the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office in January. On Thursday, she met South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong for talks on North Korea, the military alliance between Seoul and Washington and other regional issues. The two decided to continue close consultations to get North Korea to return to talks and agreed dialogue is essential to the complete denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, Chung's ministry said in a statement. U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at stripping North Korea of its nuclear program in return for economic and political benefits has been stalled for about 2 1/2 years.

4 journalists at shut Hong Kong paper charged with collusion

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong police charged two top editors and two editorial writers at Apple Daily with collusion weeks after the city's largest pro-democracy newspaper was forced to cease publication and its assets were frozen. Executive Editor-in-Chief Lam Man-chung was the eighth executive or journalist at the shuttered newspaper arrested in recent weeks as city authorities crack down on dissent and China's central government brings the semi-autonomous territory more under

its control. Lam was arrested Wednesday, according to the South China Morning Post newspaper, which cited an unnamed source. Associate Publisher and Deputy Chief Editor Chan Pui-man and editorial writers Fung Wai-kong and Yeung Ching-kee were also detained Wednesday after their bail was revoked, local media reported. All four were charged with conspiring to "collude with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security" under the city's year-old national security law. Police confirmed four people, aged between 51 and 57, had been charged but did not identify them. They will appear in court Thursday.

Thailand to join COVAX, acknowledging low vaccine supply

BANGKOK (AP)—The head of Thailand's National Vaccine Institute apologized Wednesday for the country's slow and inadequate roll-out of coronavirus vaccines, promising it will join the U.N.-backed COVAX program to receive supplies from its pool of donated vaccines next year. Thailand is battling a punishing coronavirus surge that is pushing new cases and deaths to record highs nearly every day. There is fear that the numbers will get much worse because the government failed to secure significant vaccine supplies in advance of the onslaught. The spread of the highly contagious delta variant of the virus has exacerbated the

situation, as Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government seeks to buy vaccines to supplement the modest amounts it has on hand of Sinovac and Sinopharm from China and locally produced AstraZeneca. In addition to failing to buy enough vaccine, Prayuth's government has come under severe criticism because some studies show the Chinese vaccines are less effective against the delta variant than those produced by Pfizer and Moderna.

Japanese envoy says Tokyo 'struggles every day' with China

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Japan's relationship with China was no better than notoriously strained Sino-Australian relations, the Japanese ambassador to Australia said on Wednesday. Japan's ties with China are often held up as an example to Australia of how productive relations can be maintained with Beijing despite national differences. But Ambassador Shingo Yamagami said he had encountered a common misperception in Australia about the state of Japan's relations with China since he took up his post in December last year. "The nutshell of that argument is Japan is doing far better than Australia when it comes to dealing with Japan's neighbor, China," Yamagami told the National Press Club of Australia. "My simple answer is: no way. I'm afraid I don't subscribe to such an argument. Why? Because each and every day Japan is struggling," Yamagami added.

World

Syria accuses Israel of carrying out strike, 2nd in a week

DAMASCUS (AP)—Syria accused Israel Thursday of carrying out an airstrike in a central province, the second time in as many days, saying the aerial attack caused material damage.

An unidentified Syrian military official quoted by the state

news agency said air defenses shot down most of the missiles in the attack that occurred early Thursday on targets it did not name in the Quseir region of the Homs countryside.

Israel has launched hundreds of strikes against Iran-linked military targets in war-

ravaged Syria over the years but rarely acknowledges or discusses such operations. Late Monday, Syria reported an Israeli airstrike southeast of the northern Aleppo province, but did not mention details of the target or damage.

The Britain-based Syr-

ian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor that has activists on the ground in Syria, said Monday's strikes targeted weapons depots that belong to Iranian-backed militiamen operating in Aleppo's Safira region.

It also confirmed Thursday's

strikes, saying they destroyed ammunitions and weapons depots belonging to the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group in the western Homs countryside.

The Iran-backed group

has been operating in Syria for years, helping President Bashar Assad's government reclaim control over most of the country after a devastating civil war.

Violence flares in Haiti ahead of slain president's funeral

QUARTIER-MORIN, Haiti (AP)—Hundreds of workers fled businesses in northern Haiti on Wednesday after demonstrations near the hometown of assassinated President Jovenel Moïse grew violent ahead of his funeral.

Associated Press journalists observed the body of one man who witnesses said was shot in the community of Quartier-Morin, which is near Trou-du-Nord, where Moïse grew up. Roadblocks were set up between the two communities, temporarily barring cars from entering or leaving as two plumes of thick, black smoke rose nearby.

Many workers walked hurriedly in a single file along the main road that connects Quartier-Morin with Cap-Haitien, the city where events

to honor Moïse were scheduled to start Thursday ahead of Friday's funeral.

Fleeing people said they saw burning tires and men with weapons demanding justice for Moïse. One woman who was out of breath said the armed men told her, "Go! Go! Go!" as employees clad in uniforms of all colors obeyed and left the area. She declined to give her name, saying she feared for her life.

Abnel Pierre, who works at the Caracol Industrial Park, said he was forced to walk 45 minutes home because the bus that transports employees was stuck behind blockades. He declined further comment as he walked swiftly toward his house as the sky began to darken.

These were the first violent

demonstrations since Moïse was shot to death at his private home. They came a day after Ariel Henry was sworn in as the country's new prime minister, pledging to form a provisional consensus government and to restore order and security.

In the capital of Port-au-Prince, Martine Moïse, widow of the slain president, made her first public appearance since her surprise return to Haiti on Saturday. She had been recuperating at a hospital in Miami after she was wounded in the June 7 attack at the couple's private home.

She wore a black dress and black face mask and her right arm was in a black sling as she met with officials near the National Pantheon Museum, where ceremonies are being

held to commemorate her husband. The capital remained peaceful in contrast with the community in northern Haiti.

Authorities have said at least 26 suspects have been detained as part of the investigation into the assassination, including 18 former Colombian soldiers and three Haitian police officers. At least seven high-ranking police officers have been placed in isolation, but not formally arrested, Police Chief Léon Charles has said.

On Wednesday, Colombia's government said it would have a consular mission in Haiti on July 25-27 to help the detained ex-soldiers and repatriate the bodies of the three others killed by Haitian authorities in the aftermath of the assassination.

South African firm to make Pfizer vaccine, first in Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A South African firm will begin producing the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine, the first time that the shot will be produced in Africa, Pfizer announced Wednesday.

The Biovac Institute based in Cape Town will manufacture the vaccine for distribution across Africa, a move that should help address the continent's desperate need for more vaccine doses amid a recent surge of cases.

Biovac will receive large batch ingredients for the vaccine from Europe and will blend the components, put them in vials and package them for distribution. The production will begin in 2022 with a goal of reaching more than 100 million finished doses annually. Biovac's produc-

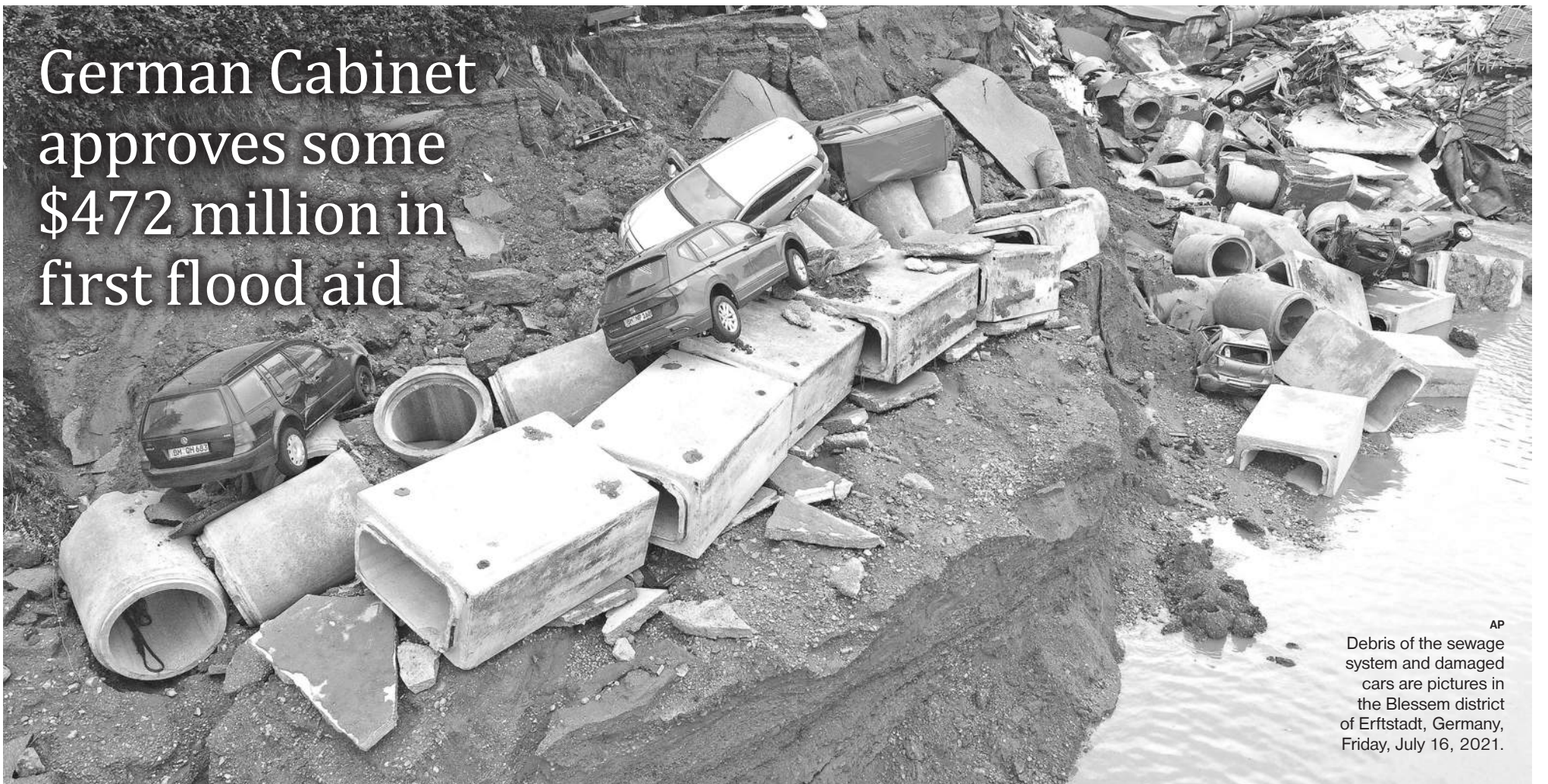
tion of doses will be distributed among the 54 countries of Africa.

The development is "a critical step" in increasing African's access to an effective COVID-19 vaccine, Biovac chief executive Dr. Morena Makhoana said.

Lara Dovifat of the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders, also known as Médecins Sans Frontières, called the agreement "a first step" but said it is "clearly not enough to achieve vaccine independence on the African continent."

She criticized the agreement's failure to share Pfizer-BioNTech's technology and know-how to independently manufacture vaccines with the South African company.

German Cabinet approves some \$472 million in first flood aid



AP
Debris of the sewage system and damaged cars are pictures in the Blessem district of Erfstadt, Germany, Friday, July 16, 2021.

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's Cabinet on Wednesday approved a roughly 400 million-euro (\$472 million) package of immediate aid for flood victims and vowed to start quickly on rebuilding devastated areas, a task whose cost is expected to be well into the billions.

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said the package, financed half by Chancellor Angela Merkel's federal government and half by Germany's state governments, to help people deal with the immediate aftermath of last week's flooding would increase if more money is needed.

"We will do what is necessary to help everyone as quickly as possible," Scholz said.

At least 171 people were killed in Germany, well over half of them in Ahrweiler county, near Bonn, when small rivers swelled quickly into raging torrents on Wednesday and Thursday following per-

sistent downpours. Another 31 died in neighboring Belgium, bringing the death toll in both countries to 202.

The deluges also destroyed or severely damaged homes, businesses and infrastructure. Authorities in the affected states are responsible for details of who receives how

much aid and how, but Scholz said they have indicated it will be "a very unbureaucratic process" that involves no means-testing.

"It's necessary to send a message quickly that there is a future, that we are taking care of it together, that this is a matter for us as the whole country

to help with," he added.

Heiko Lemke said his family wasn't insured for the damage caused when the Ahr river flooded the entire ground floor of their duplex house in the town of Sinzig.

So far nobody has told the Lemkes where to apply for government aid.

Off The Wall

Cocaine disguised as cake seized from vehicle in Maine

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Twitter kills off ephemeral messages

Twitter is disappearing tweets, called fleets, after they didn't catch on. The company began testing tweets that vanish after 24 hours last March in Brazil. Fleets were designed to allay the concerns of new users who might be turned off by the public and permanent nature of normal tweets. "However, we haven't seen an increase in the amount of new people joining the conversation with Fleets like we hoped," Twitter said in a statement Wednesday. "So as of August 3, Fleets will no longer be available on Twitter." Kayvon Beykpour, head of consumer product at Twitter, stressed that this is part of how the company works. "(Big) bets are risky and speculative, so by definition a number of them won't work," he tweeted. "If we're not having to wind down features every once in a while, then it would be a sign that we're not taking big enough swings." (AP)

Long overdue books returned to Massachusetts library

SOMERVILLE, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts man has returned long overdue books that were checked out in the 1920s and 1930s to the Somerville Public Library. Bob Alvarez, 63, found the books in the basement of his Methuen home in a wooden box. The Boston Globe reported on Thursday. The books were stored in a wooden box in the attic of the family's Somerville home until it was sold in 2010. Alvarez moved the box and other items into his basement and never examined the contents until June. The books belonged to his late aunt, Helen Godimis, who died in 1937 at the age of 16 from the flu, the newspaper reported. She left behind 39 books. Some of them were from Somerville schools, some from apparently from his aunt's personal collection. The oldest books had copyrights from the 19th century. When he found the books, Alvarez contacted the library, saying "I've got some overdue books, am I talking to the right people?" Alvarez will

not be charged late fees as the library stopped charging the fees as of July 1.

World's tallest horse, Big Jake, dies in Wisconsin at age 20

POYNETTE, Wis. (AP)—The world's tallest horse has died in Wisconsin. The 20-year-old Belgian named Big Jake lived on Smokey Hollow Farm in Poynette. Valicia Gilbert, wife of the farm's owner, Jerry Gilbert, said Big Jake died two weeks ago but declined to give the exact date of death when The Associated Press reached her Monday via Facebook. "We would rather not remember him by a date—it's been a traumatic event for our family," she said. Big Jake was 6-foot-10 (nearly 2.1 meters) and weighed 2,500 pounds (1,136 kilograms). The Guinness Book of World Records certified him as the world's tallest living horse in 2010. Jerry Gilbert told WMTV that Big Jake was a "superstar" and a "truly magnificent animal." He said Big Jake was born in Nebraska and weighed 240 pounds (109 kilograms) at birth, about 100 pounds (45 kilograms) heavier at birth than a typical Belgian foal.

Rare pink water bird lands in Michigan, delighting public

SALINE, Mich. (AP)—Bird lovers with cameras and binoculars are traveling to a stream in southeastern Michigan to see a rare creature with pink feathers and a long bill. The roseate spoonbill was found in Saline in the Koch Warner Drain, the first to be seen in Michigan, said Molly Keenan of Michigan Audubon. The bird, which typically lives in the Gulf Coast region, escaped from a zoo or is "very confused," said Saline police, which placed traffic cones on a road to manage the flow of people. "Sometimes they wander a bit too far," said Benjamin Winger, bird curator at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Whatever the reason, word has spread about the bird. Sally Most and her husband traveled roughly 200 miles (322 kilometers) from Fairmount, Indiana. "After a time, you see a lot of the same birds,

and then you see something unusual. ... I took over 300 pictures of it last night," Most told the Detroit Free Press. "We're going home happy campers."

Florida man tries to throw live gator onto building's roof

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man told police officers he was "teaching it a lesson" when he tried to throw a live alligator he had stolen from a miniature golf course onto the roof of a beachside cocktail lounge, authorities said. The 32-year-old man was arrested early Thursday when Daytona Beach Shores police officers spotted him attempting to throw the gator onto the roof of a cocktail lounge located just off Highway A1A, according to a police report. The officers then saw the man take the alligator by its tail, hit it against the awning of the building, throw it to the ground and stomp on it twice, the report said. The man from Homestead, Florida was taken into custody and charged with possession and injury of an alligator, unarmed burglary of an occupied dwelling, theft and criminal mischief. The man told officers that he had stolen the gator from an enclosure at a nearby miniature golf course. An online court docket showed no attorney for the man, who remained in jail Friday morning.

Dutch queen and robot open 3D-printed bridge in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Dutch Queen Maxima teamed up with a small robot Thursday to unveil a steel 3D-printed pedestrian bridge over a canal in the heart of Amsterdam's red light district. Maxima pushed a green button that set the robot's arm in motion to cut a ribbon across the bridge with a pair of scissors. The distinctive flowing lines of the 12-meter (40-foot) bridge were created using a 3D printing technique called wire and arc additive manufacturing that combines robotics with welding. Tim Geurtjens, of the company MX3D, said the bridge showcases the possibilities of the technology.

A New York man and a Maine woman are facing charges over cocaine disguised as a cake that was seized from their vehicle, the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency said Wednesday.

Acting on a tip, police stopped the car on Interstate 295 in Gardiner on Tuesday, and a drug-sniffing dog found 4 pounds (2 kilograms) of cocaine worth \$200,000 on the street, the MDEA said. Also seized was \$1,900 in cash.

About 2 pounds of the cocaine was disguised as a marble cake with coffee grounds used to cover up the scent, officials said.

The two were released on bail and were expected in court on Wednesday. It was unknown if they had a lawyer.

Agents believe the drugs were to be distributed in Ken-



(MAINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY VIA AP)

This undated photo provided by the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency shows a marble cake which contained about 2 pounds of cocaine, and cash, seized from a vehicle in Gardiner, Maine. A New York man and a Maine woman are facing charges, Wednesday, July 21, 2021, after the cocaine disguised as a cake was seized from their vehicle, authorities said.

nebec and Somerset counties. The MDEA was assisted in the investigation by the Winslow

Police Department, Maine State Police and Homeland Security Investigations. (AP)

Authorities: Guard hid pills in Rice Krispies treats

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A guard was fired and arrested after trying to smuggle prescription stimulant pills into a South Carolina women's prison by hiding them in Rice Krispies treats, authorities said.

Marcy Shaffer, 43, took the treats out of their original packages, pushed the pills inside and put them in a plastic bag, according to arrest warrants.

Shaffer was caught as she

tried to take the treats into the Camille Graham Correctional Institution on Thursday, the Department of Corrections said in a statement.

Shaffer hid four amphetamine and dextroamphetamine pills in the treats and had two more in a prescription bottle which was not labeled for the drugs, according to arrest warrants.

A picture released by prison officials showed the orange pills peeking out from the in-

side of the snacks.

The pills are a simulant that are supposed to be used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Shaffer is charged with possession of narcotics with intent to distribute, furnishing prisoners with contraband and misconduct in office. Court records did not indicate if she had a lawyer.

Shaffer faces one to 10 years in prison if convicted of the contraband charge.

Don't look up! Bangkok's slitherers keep snake catchers busy



AP

In this image made from video, a firefighter tries to capture a python in the Benjasiri Park in Bangkok, Thailand on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

BANGKOK (AP)—Bangkok parkgoers looking for relief from renewed coronavirus restrictions got a slithering surprise Thursday when a python as long as two of the Thai capital's ubiquitous motorbikes was spotted in one of the city's most popular green spaces.

The reticulated python was only the latest big serpent to turn up in the dense center of Bangkok, where urban sprawl eating into natural habitats has been blamed for a rise in snake

sightings in recent years.

This one was found in Benjasiri Park, which is flanked by towering hotels, apartment buildings and several high-end shopping malls now largely off limits due to restrictions put in place this week to stem a surge in virus cases. The curbs have shuttered non-essential businesses and limited restaurants to takeout only, leaving parks among the few public places still open.

As parents pushed strollers and joggers rounded a near-

by running path, firefighters called in to corral the snake started by trying to capture it with a ladder from the ground up.

The python plotted its escape by heading out on a limb, bound for a building on the edge of the park that houses the World Fellowship of Buddhists.

Other firefighters were waiting for it on the roof of the building. While one used a stick to grab the python by the neck, another man tried to cut the branch it was on. They soon coaxed it into a sack, tied up the bag, and carried it away.

Firefighter Somchai Yoosabai said the snake measured 3.5 meters (11.5 feet) long and weighed about 35 kilograms (77 pounds).

Bangkok firefighters typically get thousands of snake-removal calls each year. Yoosabai said his department alone has caught a snake or two a day during the current rainy season, mostly in neighborhoods or houses with pets.

As coronavirus cases rise, so do the risks.

Science & Technology

Rare 'breakthrough' COVID cases are causing alarm, confusion

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Reports of athletes, lawmakers and others getting the coronavirus despite vaccination may sound alarming but top health experts point to overwhelming evidence that the shots are doing exactly what they are supposed to: dramatically reducing severe illness and death.

The best indicator: U.S. hospitalizations and deaths are nearly all among the unvaccinated, and real-world data from Britain and Israel support that protection against the worst cases remains strong. What scientists call "breakthrough" infections in people who are fully vaccinated make up a small fraction of cases.

breakthrough infection, that doesn't necessarily mean the vaccine is failing," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease specialist, told a worried Senate panel this week. The shots are holding up, he said, even in the face of the highly contagious delta variant that is burning through unvaccinated communities.

Health authorities have

warned that even though the COVID-19 vaccines are incredibly effective — the Pfizer and Moderna ones about 95% against symptomatic infection in studies — they're not perfect. No vaccine is.

But it wasn't until delta variant began spreading that the risk of breakthroughs started getting much public attention. The barrage of headlines is disconcerting for vaccinated people wondering how to bal-

ance getting back to normal with more exposure to unvaccinated strangers — especially if they have vulnerable family members, such as children too young to qualify for the shots.



In this Monday, July 12, 2021, file photo, Karen Martin receives a COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination clinic hosted by James River Church West Campus in conjunction with Jordan Valley Community Health Center in Springfield, Mo.

What is a COVID-19 vaccine 'breakthrough' case?

By CANDICE CHOI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

What is a COVID-19 vaccine "breakthrough" case?

It's when a fully vaccinated person gets infected with the coronavirus. A small number of such cases are expected and health officials say they're not a cause for alarm.

COVID-19 vaccines work by teaching the body to recognize the virus. So if you're exposed to it after vaccination, your immune system should be ready to spring into action and fight it.

In studies, the two-dose COVID-19 vaccines by Pfizer

and Moderna were around 95% effective at preventing illness, while the one-shot Johnson & Johnson shot was 72% effective, though direct comparisons are difficult. So while the vaccines are very good at protecting us from the virus, it's still possible to get infected with mild or no symptoms, or even to get sick.

If you do end up getting sick despite vaccination, experts say the shots are very good at reducing the severity of the illness — the main reason to get vaccinated.

Most people with breakthrough infections experience mild illness, said Dr. William

Moss, a vaccine expert at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

In the U.S., people who weren't vaccinated make up nearly all hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.

It's difficult to determine why any particular breakthrough case happens. How much of the virus you're exposed to could be a factor, Moss said. Our individual immune systems will also affect how well we respond to the shots. Some people, for example, have health conditions or take medications that could make their immune systems less responsive to the vaccines.

Creating a second Chrome profile is like starting over

Q: I created a new profile in the Google Chrome browser that's separate from the main profile, which is my wife's. But now when I use the browser, all of my bookmarks are gone. I tried to export the bookmarks from my wife's profile, but it didn't work. How can I get my old bookmarks into my new browser profile, or just delete my new profile?

A: The bookmarks weren't lost. They simply remained with your wife's Chrome browser profile, while you started fresh with no bookmarks. The other things that remained with your wife's profile are the Chrome browser's history, passwords and any special settings.

Here are three things you can do to solve the problem:

Manually recreate all the bookmarks within your browser profile, which would be tedious.

Erase your new Chrome profile and once again share your wife's profile. Your bookmarks and other familiar features will be available again.

To erase your Chrome profile, open the browser and click "profile" icon (often an outline of someone's head and shoulders.) In the resulting list, choose the "other profiles" icon (looks like a gear

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



wheel). On the square containing your profile name, click the "more" icon (three vertical dots at upper right). Then click delete. When asked to confirm the action, click delete again.

Use another browser to copy your wife's bookmarks to your profile. Download the Mozilla Firefox browser (see tinyurl.com/bcazwrc4), then import the Chrome bookmarks to Firefox (see tinyurl.com/3p7txrpn).

Then open Chrome to your profile and import the Firefox bookmarks to Chrome (see tinyurl.com/4hcerc26).

Q: Like most people, I receive a lot of junk e-mail. I never open it, and several times a day I empty the Gmail junk and trash folders. I've learned not to "unsubscribe" to e-mails, which just verifies to the senders that I should be sent more junk. Is there some way to get less junk mail?

A: You can't stop spam, but you can help the Gmail spam filter do a better job.

The spam filter is already helping you; its contents are the junk mail that never made it to your inbox. But the spam filter "learns" to identify spam by seeing new examples of it. So, when you get rid of spam in your inbox, don't delete it — get rid of it by sending it to the junk folder.

Over time, the spam filter should "learn" to block similar e-mails from reaching your inbox. This is hardly a perfect process, but it's your best defense against spam.

Q: My friends and I keep a Mac iTunes library of 100,000 CD songs stored on an external hard drive. How can I move the songs and playlists to an iPhone now that Macs don't use iTunes?

A: You'll need to import your songs to the Mac's Music app (which replaced iTunes), then use the Finder app to copy the songs to your iPhone (see tinyurl.com/4pfnty3p and tinyurl.com/ywvj5w2p). The Music app can also import playlists (see tinyurl.com/vxywya9).

Science Matters

Carnivores (meat-eaters) generally have large forward teeth to seize food and jaws that open and close like a hinge

Herbivores (plant-eaters) generally have small front teeth to shear off fibrous plant material and flat rear teeth to grind it; their jaws can move from side to side as they chew

A bamboo-eater's specialized teeth

China's endangered giant pandas evolved able to eat bamboo leaves, stems and shoots — a food other mammals are cannot eat.

Giant pandas are classified as carnivores, but their diet is almost exclusively bamboo

They have a carnivore's short, straight digestive tract and carnivore-specific genes; they derive little energy or protein from the bamboo

Average panda eats up to 14 kg (30 lb.) of bamboo daily to compensate for its limited calorie content; it defecates up to 40 times a day

New analysis

Large canines, used for fighting, do not keep jaw from grinding

How that works:

1 Jaw's joint can swing from side to side for chewing

2 Premolar teeth peel away bamboo's poisonous green skin, whose mineral crystals would wear down teeth

GIANT PANDA JAW

1 Temporomandibular joint

Canine teeth

Premolar teeth 2

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Source: University of Turku (Finland); China Conservation and Research Center for Giant Panda
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Weinstein pleads not guilty to sexual assaults in California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty in a Los Angeles courtroom Wednesday to four counts of rape and seven other sexual assault counts.

Sheriff's deputies brought the 69-year-old convicted rapist into court in a wheelchair. He was wearing a brown jail jumpsuit and face mask.

Attorney Mark Werksman entered the plea for the disgraced movie mogul a day after Weinstein was extradited to California from New York, where he was serving a 23-year prison term.

Weinstein spoke only to say "thank you" to Judge Sergio Tapia, who wished him good luck as the hearing ended.

He now awaits a second trial on a second coast, and the possibility of another lengthy sentence.

Weinstein's indictment involves five women in incidents spanning from 2004 to 2013. Most are said to have taken place in the hotels in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles that the New York-based Weinstein would make his headquarters for Hollywood business. Some took place during Oscars week, when his films were perennial contenders before the #MeToo movement brought him down.

He pleaded not guilty to four counts of rape, four counts of forcible oral copulation, two counts of sexual battery by restraint and one count of sexual penetration by use of force,



AP
In this image taken from KABC pool video, Harvey Weinstein, the 69-year-old convicted rapist and disgraced movie mogul, wears a face mask during an arraignment hearing, Wednesday, July 21, 2021, in Los Angeles.

will be acquitted."

The women were not identified in the indictment.

Attorney Gloria Allred, who represents two of them, said the age of the incidents was not a factor in their truth.

"Allegations of sexual assault and rape do take a long time to report, so the idea that they may not have disclosed to a law enforcement officer for many years does not mean that those are not credible," Allred said.

O'Reilly accuser's appearance on 'The View' stopped by order

NEW YORK (AP)—"The View" canceled a planned appearance Wednesday by a woman who settled a sexual harassment lawsuit against Bill O'Reilly, after the former Fox News Channel personality sought and received a restraining order against her.

O'Reilly accused his former producer, Andrea Mackris, of violating a non-disclosure agreement by talking about her experiences with him nearly two decades ago.

ABC's daytime talk show, in a statement, said that after being notified of the restraining order "we decided to postpone her interview pending further developments. We look forward to welcoming her to 'The View' at a later date."

Mackris gave an interview to the Daily Beast earlier this month detailing her experiences with O'Reilly. She had accused him of making repeated lewd telephone calls, while he accused Mackris of an extortion attempt before agreeing to a \$9 million settlement in 2004.

Fox News in 2017 fired

O'Reilly, then its most popular star, after it was revealed the company had paid five women a total of \$13 million to keep quiet about disturbing encounters with him.

O'Reilly, in court papers filed this week in New York state Supreme Court in Nassau County, accused Mackris of violating the confidentiality obligations she had agreed to in her settlement. While Mackris apparently believes the terms don't apply to her, "she has not offered to return any of the millions of dollars she received," O'Reilly's lawyers said.

Judge Randy Sue Marber, signed the restraining order Tuesday and ordered a hearing for July 26.

Mackris told the Daily Beast on Wednesday that "I hope the days of the law allowing the silencing of women are over. I will continue to fight for my voice."

In the July 13 article for the website, Mackris spoke about her emotional distress and of being effectively blackballed in the news industry in the years following her case.

Bette Midler, Berry Gordy among new Kennedy Center honorees

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Kennedy Center Honors will return in December with a class that includes Motown Records creator Berry Gordy, "Saturday Night Live" mastermind Lorne Michaels and actress-singer Bette Midler. Organizers expect to operate at full capacity, after last year's ceremony was delayed for months and later conducted under COVID-19 restrictions.

This 44th class of honorees for lifetime achievement in the creative arts is heavy on musical performers. The honorees also include opera singer Justino Diaz and folk music legend Joni Mitchell.

All will be honored on Dec. 5 with a trademark program that includes personalized tributes and performances that are kept secret from the honorees.

Deborah Rutter, president of

the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, said the current plan is to pack the center's opera house to full capacity and require all attendees to wear masks. But the plans remain fluid and Rutter said they're ready to adapt to changing circumstances depending on the country's COVID-19 situation.

"We don't know for sure what it's going to be like," Rutter said in an interview.

"But don't you think we all deserve to have a party?"

The 43rd Kennedy Center Honors class was delayed from December 2020 as the center largely shut down its indoor programming. A heavily slimmed-down ceremony was finally held in May of this year, with a series of small socially distanced gatherings and pre-taped video performances replacing the normal gala event.

Sex Pistols singer calls TV show 'nonsense' in songs dispute

LONDON (AP)—Former Sex Pistols singer John Lydon said Wednesday that he's "heart and soul" against letting the band's songs be used in an upcoming television drama about the pioneering punk outfit, dismissing the TV series as "nonsense."

Lydon, formerly known as

Johnny Rotten, is being sued by guitarist Steve Jones and drummer Paul Cook, who want the songs to feature in "Pistol," a Disney-backed series based on a memoir by Jones.

Lydon says the songs can't be licensed without his consent, but Cook and Jones say an agreement dating

from 1998 allows a majority decision.

During a hearing at the High Court in London, Lydon said the agreement had never been used and the band had always made decisions about its music and imagery unanimously.

"I don't understand how Steve and Paul think they

have the right to insist that I do something that I so morally heart and soul disagree with without any involvement," he said.

He said his erstwhile bandmates were demanding "that I agree to sign over the rights to a drama documentary that I am not allowed any access to."

Sister's proselytizing impacts man's social life

DEAR ABBY: I have a much older sister who has become very religious. Most of her life decisions are based on her faith, so conversations tend to develop into faith-oriented topics and justifications. I don't initiate these conversations, and I make a genuine effort to understand her perspective. When I am not able to, I have mastered the "smile and nod."

My problem is, anytime I bring a friend or date to a family function, she drags them off to the side and begins to question and discuss the importance of faith. Since religion is a widely varied and highly sensitive topic, this can sometimes be uncomfortable. I recently asked her to stop doing it, and I haven't heard from her since. How can I explain healthy boundaries to her so we can have a respectful relationship?

YOUNGER BROTHER IN GEORGIA

DEAR YOUNGER BROTHER: If part of your sister's religion is advancing it or converting others to her faith, you won't be able to convince her to stop. I agree that what she's doing can come across as obnoxious. Because you can't control what she says or does, you may have to stop bringing friends or dates to family functions where you know she'll be present. Otherwise, warn them in advance so they can either avoid being cornered or get away from her.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend was my first crush in grade eight. We are in our late 40s now. He was in a relationship for 17 years with a woman who has three daughters. One hasn't talked to either parent in years. The other two drink, use drugs and have kids of their own. They often ask to "borrow" money, but never pay it back. One of them asked me for enough to put down a deposit for rent on a house. I have two of my own children and my exes don't support them, so I'm wondering how responsible I am for his ex-girlfriend's kids.

NOT GONNA HAPPEN

DEAR NOT GONNA: You have no legal, moral or ethical obligation to the children your boyfriend raised with his former girlfriend. Stick to your guns, dear lady, because you are off the hook if you have the backbone to stay that way.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 50-year-old male. When I interact with a woman whose name I don't know, I address her as "Dear." Surprisingly, many of them respond in a negative way, regardless of age. Is it wrong to call someone "Dear"? And if so, what should I call them if I don't know their name?

UNSURE IN IOWA

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR UNSURE: The women may respond the way they do because they consider being called "Dear" by a stranger to be overly familiar or even condescending. (Other titles to avoid would be "Honey" and "Young Lady," if the woman appears to be past the age of 30.) Be safe—and respectful—by addressing them as Miss or Ma'am.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



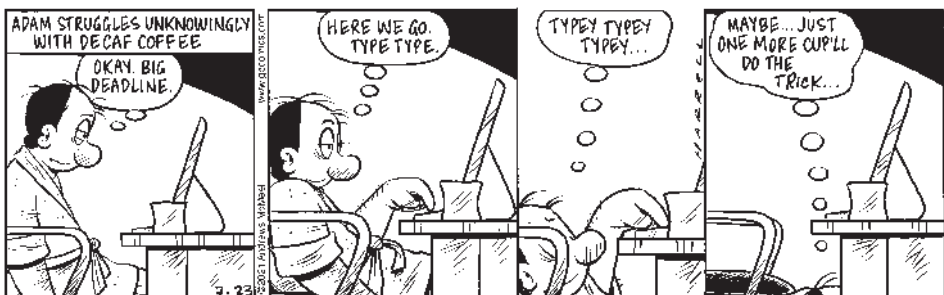
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stick with a kick
4 Curator's concern
7 Old Testament book
12 Irish actor Stephen
13 — Na Na
14 Tolerate
15 Resistance unit
16 Cowboy's greeting
18 Three, in Rome
19 Boredom
20 Bath bubbles
22 Coloring agent
23 Dines
27 Airport screening org.
29 "Get a move on!"
31 Proprietor
34 Pick up the tab
35 "Frida" or "Ray"
37 Salt source
38 Hostels

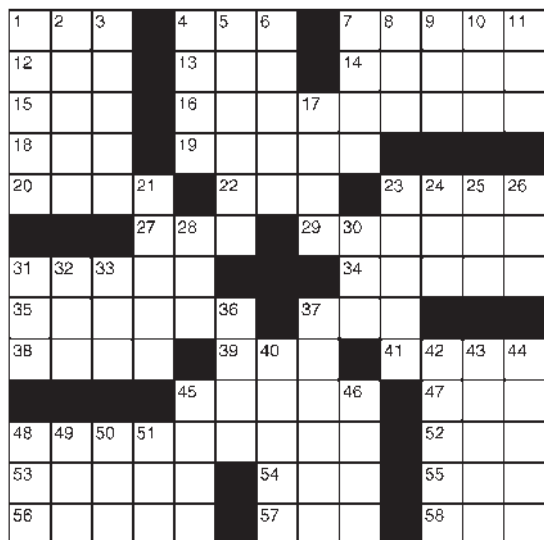
DOWN

39 Ms. Thurman
41 Genie's offering
45 Condition
47 Scot's denial
48 Assent from a sailor
52 Turkish title
53 Discover
54 Prefix with athlete
55 Bankroll
56 Top floor
57 Moment
58 Gaffer Ernie
1 India's first prime minister
3 No longer wild
4 Tennis legend
5 "Help Me, —" (Beach Boys hit)
6 Lion's color
7 Polite query
8 "Big Blue"
9 Spy org.
10 Nabokov novel
11 Skirt edge
17 Face-off
21 Dance moves
23 Scarecrow stuffing
24 Exploit
25 Links org.
26 Drunkard
28 — Lanka
30 Paris summer
31 Kimono sash
32 Victory
33 "Smoking or —?"
36 Adorable
37 Lamppost
40 Ship poles
42 Amazed
43 "Rebel" actress
44 Coin toss call
45 Harmonization
46 Guitarist Clapton
48 In the manner of
49 Still
50 Take courses?
51 Shapiro of NPR

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	G	M	A	W	R	J	U	S	T
U	N	O	O	S	H	A	A	L	L	Y
G	O	D	S	P	E	C	E	D	P	U
S	A	P	W	A	R	H	E	R	O	
S	E	P	T	E	R	O	E			
O	L	E	D	A	B	A	R	D	S	
R	I	L	L	B	O	K	D	O	P	A
T	A	L	E	S	D	I	V	M	U	G
S	A	C	N	F	W	A	G	F		
P	A	R	S	N	I	P	R	O	N	
P	A	L	O	E	G	R	E	E	K	G
N	O	D	E	A	A	R	E	O	L	I
S	T	E	S	E	V	A	N	D	E	S

Yesterday's answer 7-23



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Daniel Radcliffe, 32; Paul Wesley, 39; Marlon Wayans, 49; Woody Harrelson, 60.

Happy Birthday: Refuse to let anyone limit what you can do this year. Analyze situations, and find the best way to stabilize your life. Make decisions that help you save and also initiate profits. Look for opportunities to work in conjunction with people who share your beliefs and concerns. Positive change comes when you do what's best for you. Your numbers are 3, 14, 20, 27, 31, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a moment to look at every angle of a situation before you make a move. Patience and discipline will help you navigate your way through situations that can determine how your life will unfold. Search for clarity and peace of mind. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Embrace change, learn all you can and make adjustments that will help you reach your goal. Refuse to let emotions stand between you and what's correct or best for you. Learn from your mistakes and experience, then proceed. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Listen carefully; the information you receive will have underlying concerns that can leave you in a precarious position. Take your time, and make decisions based on facts and figures, not hearsay. Don't get involved in something because someone close to you does. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for a good deal, and you'll find one. Ask questions, negotiate on your behalf and don't settle for less than what you want. Change begins

with you, so don't let anyone push you in a direction you don't want to go. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Hidden matters will surface. Don't ignore what's going on around you, or you will miss an opportunity to excel. An innovative idea will put you in the spotlight and boost the possibility of working with someone who wants the same results. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expand your interests, and you will discover opportunities that will encourage you to follow a path that is new and exciting. Self-improvement projects and taking better care of yourself and your financial concerns are encouraged. Romance will enrich your day. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself and avoid getting into a battle or being criticized. Channel your energy into something that makes you feel good about yourself or a contribution you make. An opportunity will unfold if you participate in community events. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Touch base with people you don't see often, and you'll receive valuable information that transforms what you do next. Choosing to follow a path that is out of the ordinary will awake the spirit within and give you something to work toward. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Time is on your side. Slow down, enjoy the moment and refrain from participating in events geared toward indulgent behavior. Keep your money in a safe place, and avoid unnecessary expenditures. Say no to temptation; set

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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a strict budget. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Plan something you can enjoy with a friend or lover. An opportunity to discuss your intentions will lead to a long-term plan and positive lifestyle changes. Speak from the heart, and you'll reach a worthwhile agreement. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are heading in the right direction, so don't start making changes to accommodate someone else. Do your own thing and stand behind your dreams, hopes and wishes. It's up to you to follow through and make things happen. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A proactive approach will help you maintain leverage when trying to get your way. Rely on experience and knowledge to back your plans and verify the information before passing it along. A positive change looks promising as long as you don't hesitate. ***

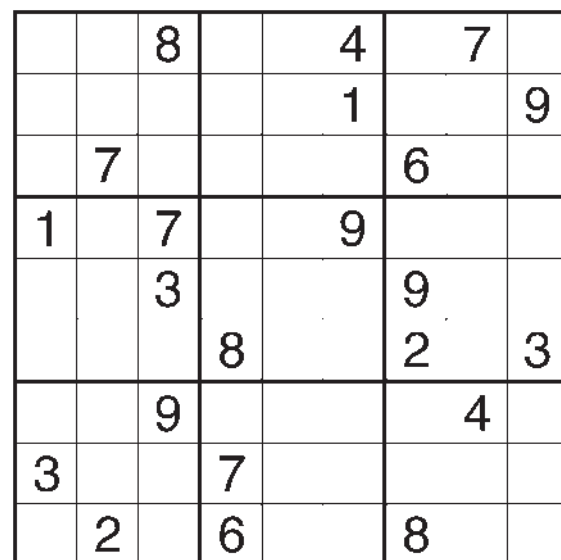
Birthday Baby: You are proactive, opportunistic and quick-witted. You are friendly and persuasive.

☺ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺☺ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☺☺☺ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☺☺☺☺ Aim high; start new projects. ☺☺☺☺☺ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



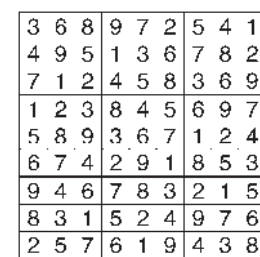
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

EATING WITH A CHORK

Solution: 10 letters

S P U N I Q U E C S I L V E R
R S T C U I S I N E U W H I H
E A E U O O B M A B R S C O C
Z R N R O L L S M A S E H O T
I G S V P L L U P E L A L I I
T P I E P X H P L D L O S T W
E R L D T T E D N E R K U S S
P A A A F D O A S S B H D T N
P D T I S O H S D I N O I E I
A S L I N T R Y V N O P W E A
D T D O N E I O B F A I O L M
U E E I G G R C A R D P O B S
L W O N K Y S E C E I P D A A
T P I C D I S H E S K D S T F
S F O R K S K C I T S E R V E

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7/23

Adults, Appetizers, Bamboo, Bowls, Colors, Cuisine, Curved, Dishes, Eating, Ends, Express, Fingers, Fork, Gold, Grasp, Hales, Handle, Hybrid, Ivory, Kids, Lift, Mains, Noodles, Panda, Pieces, Plastic, Point, Pork, Pull, Rice, Rolls, Safe, Seafood, Serve, Silver, Steel, Staw, Sticks, Sushi, Switch, Table, Thumb, Trainer, Turn, Unique, Utensil, Wide, Wood, Wrapped

Yesterday's Answer: Bedding

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-648C.

Mets blank Reds behind Stroman's 1-hitter, Smith's slam

 Marcus Stroman pitched one-hit ball for eight innings, Dominic Smith launched a grand slam and the New York Mets cruised to a 7-0 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday.

Stroman (7-8) gave up a leadoff single to Aristides Aquino in the third inning and little else. He struck out seven and walked one while giving New York's beleaguered bullpen precious rest going into Thursday's day off. Jeurys Familia struck out three in a hitless ninth.

Luis Guillorme hit his first homer of the season and Jonathan Villar also connected for the NL East leaders. Mets manager Luis Rojas returned to the dugout after serving a two-game suspension for excessive arguing on Sunday.

Jeff Hoffman (3-5) came off the 10-day injured list to make his first start since May 26 and lasted four innings, allowing seven hits—including Smith's slam—and five runs with three walks.

Giants 4, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Wilmer Flores hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off closer Kenley Jansen in the ninth inning and San Francisco rallied past Los Angeles.

Mike Yastrzemski homered early to help the Giants regain a two-game lead in the NL West over the defending World Series champions. San Francisco has won two of three in a four-game series.

The Giants had just four hits before Flores' drive. Buster Posey delivered a pinch-hit single to start the ninth, and Flores followed with a two-run shot to left field that put San Francisco in front 3-2. Victor Gonzalez walked Curt Casali with the bases loaded, making it 4-2.

Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 4

In Buffalo, N.Y., J.D. Martinez and Hunter Renfroe connected back-to-back as Boston won a home run derby in Toronto's final game at its temporary Buffalo home.

The Blue Jays will return to Toronto on July 30 after the Canadian government granted them an exemption to the U.S.-Canada travel ban. The Blue Jays haven't played at Rogers Centre since 2019 because of coronavirus protocols.

Kiké Hernández, Rafael Devers and Michael Chavis also connected for Boston, which went deep six times in Monday's 13-4 win over Toronto. It was the first time the Red Sox hit at least five homers in consecutive games against one opponent since doing it to the Yankees in June 1977.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 32nd homer for Toronto. George Springer added a two-run shot in the sixth and Teoscar Hernández followed with a homer for Toronto, which finished its residency in Buffalo with a 12-11 record.

Padres 3, Braves 2, 1st game Padres 5, Braves 4, 2nd game, 4 1/2 innings, susp.

In Atlanta, Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a two-run homer, starter Chris Paddack reversed his recent struggles and San Diego bat Atlanta in the first game of a scheduled doubleheader.

The second game was suspended by rain in the middle of the fifth inning with the Padres leading 5-4. It was called after a 3-hour, 3-minute delay and will resume at a date yet to be determined.

In the early game, Tatis made it 3-0 in the fifth inning against reliever Shane Greene when his NL-leading 29th homer landed

in the left-field seats. The All-Star shortstop has eight hits, seven runs scored and six RBIs in his last five games.

Rays 5, Orioles 4

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Austin Meadows hit a two-out, two-run single in the ninth inning and Tampa Bay rallied past Baltimore.

Randy Arozarena hit two home runs and also had a key single as the Rays won for the 10th time in 13 games. He stopped a 21-game home run drought in Tuesday night's 9-3 win over Baltimore.

Tampa Bay trailed when Francisco Mejia led off the ninth with a single against Tanner Scott (3-4) and pinch-hitter Mike Zunino drew a one-out walk. Arozarena then hit a flare to right field, with first baseman Ryan Mountcastle and second baseman Pat Valaika colliding in pursuit, for a single that loaded the bases. After Vidal Bruján struck out, Meadows lined an 0-2 pitch to center.

Royals 6, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Nicky Lopez hit a bases-loaded, tiebreaking double, Brad Keller earned his first win in over six weeks and Kansas City completed a season sweep of Milwaukee.

On an afternoon when the Brewers made a pair of errors that caused Kansas City's first five runs to be unearned, two of the loudest ovations at the stadium came when the scoreboard showed video clips of Milwaukee Bucks players asking fans to get loud. The Bucks won their first NBA championship since 1971 on Tuesday night, beating the Phoenix Suns in Game 6 in the downtown arena about three miles away.

Jorge Soler added a towering homer in the eighth inning as the Royals continued their

improbable season-long mastery of the Brewers. Keller (7-9) struck out six and allowed three runs and two walks in 6 2/3 innings to pick up a win for the first time since June 4. Scott Barlow retired the side in order in the ninth for his fifth save.

Rockies 6, Mariners 3

In Denver, Austin Gomber pitched effectively for six innings after spending a month on the injured list, Dom Nunez hit a bases-loaded double in a five-run first and Colorado beat Seattle.

Gomber (7-5) allowed three runs on three hits—solo homers by Kyle Seager, Luis Torrens and Mitch Haniger — to win his fourth straight decision. Gomber was reinstated earlier in the day after being out since June 20 because of tightness in his left forearm.

Daniel Bard pitched a hitless ninth, fanning Torrens for the final out, for his 15th save in 20 opportunities.

Diamondbacks 6, Pirates 4

In Phoenix, Pavin Smith and Daulton Varsho hit consecutive homers in the seventh inning for the go-ahead runs and Arizona completed a three-game sweep of Pittsburgh.

The Diamondbacks won their 30th game—against an MLB-worst 68 losses—and their fourth in a row to match their season-best winning streak. They won four straight from April 18-22, including three games at Cincinnati in their only previous sweep of the season.

With the game tied at 4, Smith greeted reliever Duane Underwood Jr. (2-3) with his ninth homer into the right-field seats. Varsho followed with his second of the season, just clearing the interior fence in right.

Marlins 3, Nationals 1, 10 innings

In Washington, pinch-hitter Jorge Alfaro drove in the go-ahead run with a double in the 10th and Miami snapped a four-game losing streak.

Designated runner Lewis Brinson moved to third on Sandy Leon's sacrifice to open the 10th. Jon Berti drew a walk from Brad Hand (5-3), and Alfaro lined Hand's first pitch to the wall in left for a double, scoring Brinson. Miguel Flores' sacrifice fly made it 3-1.

Tigers 4, Rangers 2

In Detroit, Matt Manning pitched six strong innings to lead Detroit to its sixth straight victory.

Robbie Grossman, Zack Short and Akil Baddoo hit home runs as the Tigers matched their longest winning streak since an eight-game run in 2016. Detroit has allowed a total of seven runs during this success string.

Twins 7, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Max Kepler homered in for a second straight game, Jorge Polanco also went deep, and Minnesota beat Chicago.

The Twins beat the AL Central leaders for just the fourth time in 16 games.

Kepler gave the Twins a 1-0 lead when he led off the third inning by sending a low curve from Chicago starter Dylan Cease (7-6) ringing off the right field foul pole. Polanco singled and scored in a two-run fifth. He made it 6-1 in the sixth with a three-run homer into the right-field bullpen against Codi Heuer.

Indians 5, Astros 4

In Houston, rookie Ernie Clement had a season-high three RBIs and Cesar Hernandez hit a tiebreaking home run in the

seventh inning as Cleveland avoided a series sweep with a win over Houston.

It was 4-all with one out in the seventh when Hernandez, who earlier hit an RBI double, sent a pitch from Austin Pruitt (0-1) into the seats in right field.

Rookie starter Eli Morgan permitted three hits and three runs in five-plus innings. Bryan Shaw (3-3) allowed two hits and a run in the sixth and James Karinchak pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save.

Yankees 6, Phillies 5, 10 innings

In New York, pinch-hitter Ryan LaMarre singled home the winning run in the 10th inning and New York recovered to beat Philadelphia after blowing a late three-run lead.

Gleyber Torres homered and Rougned Odor had a two-run shot for the short-handed Yankees, who have won four straight and nine of 12.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina doubled home the winning run against All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel in the 10th inning to give St. Louis a victory over Chicago.

Adam Wainwright pitched seven strong innings for the Cardinals. Harrison Bader and Dylan Carlson each hit an RBI double in the seventh.

Chicago tied it in the ninth on pinch-hitter Eric Sogard's run-scoring double off Giovanny Gallegos.

Paul Goldschmidt started the bottom of the 10th inning as the automatic runner on second base. Nolan Arenado drew a walk from Kimbrel (1-3). Molina then hit a drive to right field for a ground-rule double and his ninth career game-ending hit.



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Triton Esports seeks competitive gamers to join their team rosters

The University of Guam's Triton Esports program will hold tryouts next month for their League of Legends, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate (SSBU), and Valorant team rosters. Tryouts are open to all UOG students interested in esports and competing in local and national tournaments.

Launched in February 2020, Triton Esports is Guam's first-ever collegiate esports team. Triton Esports exists to mold professional leaders through rigorous training, coaching, and mentorship. Students who join the team will be awarded a \$500 scholarship for their time and commitment.

"Joining the Triton team gave me the opportunity to competitively play the game I love and improve my gaming skills. I enjoy being on the team because of the camaraderie we



Triton Esports Production lead Karl Lacanilao oversees and manages the Triton Esports' Twitch channel during a Super Smash Bros. tournament for Tech Fest 2021.

built and the bonds I have developed with my teammates," said Ronee "CAPSTWO" Pangilinan, Triton Esports SSBU team captain.

The program is also excited to introduce Valorant to the Triton Esports lineup, which will give first-person shooter (FPS) fans an outlet to show-

case their skills and talent. Coaching the Valorant team is UOG student Willy "LEVERAGE" Hong, whose success in the game earned him



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An Truong, front, and Noah Mueller practice together for a Valorant tournament hosted by Triton Esports.

Immortal rank and placed him in the top 1% of players in North America.

"Valorant right now is the best FPS game to play. I'm excited to bring a Valorant team to UOG and show other colleges stateside, and even in Asia, what our team is made of," Hong said. "UOG is still in search of a tournament win, and I'm hoping our Valorant team will be the one to bring it home."

Tryouts are set for:

■ League of Legends: Aug. 10 and 12 via the UOG Triton Esports Discord (Online)

■ Super Smash Bros. Ultimate: Aug. 10 and 12 at the UOG Office of Information Technology

■ Valorant: Aug. 10 and 12 via the UOG Triton Esports Discord (Online)

The tryouts will be streamed live on Twitch with local shoutcasters providing commentaries on the matches. The stream will highlight live in-game footage from League of Legends, SSBU, and Valorant as the matches progress, allowing fans to view the best action during tryouts.

Students interested in participating in team tryouts can apply at <https://esports.uog.edu/tryouts>.

Those interested in tryouts and attending UOG in the fall can visit <http://uog.edu/appl> for more information.

For updates and more information about Triton Esports, visit the program's website or follow Triton Esports on Instagram, Twitch, and Discord. (PR)

NBA shifts gears quickly, and now the offseason awaits

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Detroit, you are on the clock.

The NBA offseason — if you can call it that — is here. The Milwaukee Bucks officially flipped the league calendar to summer on Tuesday night, capturing their first title in 50 years and turning out the lights on a season

that navigated its way through a pandemic to crown a new champion.

There isn't much of a break, of course.

The NBA draft, with the Pistons holding the No. 1 pick and presumably the chance to choose Oklahoma State's Cade Cunningham, is fast-approaching on July 29. Free agency starts in less than two weeks, on Aug. 2. Most new contracts can be signed start-

ing Aug. 6, and summer league opens two days after that.

"We made it. We crowned a champion," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said during the trophy ceremony in Milwaukee on Tuesday night. "I have to say playing through a pandemic required enormous resilience from all 30 teams. Thank you to every team and every player in the league for a tremendous season."

And now, it's already next

season.

The good news is there's a sense of normalcy, even amid a pandemic, and the NBA plans to continue along that path. Training camps will begin in late September, as is the new normal. Preseason games are back in early October, and the league's 76th season — even though it'll be celebrating its 75th anniversary all year long — starts Oct. 19.

MEGINO

From Page 24

manlang drilled one. MP United's three goals were all courtesy of Tai Namai-Scoggins.

GIRLS U15 DIVISION Southern United 14, Kanoa-2 1

Southern United hammered Kanoa in the third game in the division.

Pia Ngewakl was on fire for Southern United, as she recorded seven goals. Elizabeth Babauta, Rosie Saralu, and Megan Elayda chipped in two goals apiece, while

Vaniqa Torres contributed one. Kanoa's lone goal came from Elikristia Iglecias.

TanHoldings 8, Kanoa-1 1

TanHoldings also cruised to victory last weekend.

Rizza Relucio made four goals for TanHoldings, which drew a pair from Audrey Castro and one each from Kaithlyn Chavez and Mia Abuan. Kanoa got its only goal in the lopsided match from Keziah Manabat.

Shirley's 1, Paire 1

Paire forced a draw with Shirley's in the curtain-raiser in the

division.

Miranda Borja drilled the equalizer for Paire in the 44th minute, 12 minutes after Stacy Arriola gave Shirley's the precarious lead early in the second half.

BOYS U15 DIVISION Kanoa 6, Paire 1

Kanoa notched its fourth win in as many games after dominating Paire in the first game in the division.

The undefeated squad spread the wealth with six different players scoring against Paire. Markus Toves started Kanoa's offense with his goal

in the fourth minute, while Leland Deleon Guerrero, Vicente Reyes, Silvestre Ilo, Isaiah Ray Jolo, and Ruben Guerrero delivered the next five goals. Zhi Lin was the lone scorer for Paire.

Matansa 5, TanHoldings 1

Matansa notched its second straight win after outclassing TanHoldings.

Philip Megino knocked in a pair of goals for Matansa, while Jerome Mettao, Isaiah Hossain, and Pritom Sen chipped in one each. Daniel Sano made the only goal for TanHoldings.

CAMACHOS

From Page 24

ry, Leo Ganacias and Henry Manglona topped the field with their net 70, followed by Hocog and Narro with their 70.4. The Camachos wound up third in the low net with their 70.6. Completing the Top 5 were Harry Nakamura and Kaegel Taitano (70.8) and Ben Pelisamen and Tony Benavente (71).

For the women, Bobbie Guerrero and Loraine Babauta triumphed with their 71.2. Runners-up were Chloe Hocog and Rose Quitugua with their 72.4, while Terry Guerrero and Lou Kim's 73.6 was good for third place. Yuko Togawa and Bennet Seman (73.8) and Sherlyn Jones and Dolores Yamagishi (74.8) round up the Top 5 for the women.

In the longest drive, Togawa was without peer in hole No. 8, while Marco Peter clubbed it in hole No. 11. Closest to the pin winners were Hocog in hole No. 3 and 7, Narro in hole No. 12, and J.J. Atalig in hole No. 14.

First place prize for both the men's and women's double Peoria divisions was \$1,000, while runners-up took home \$500. Third place received \$250. A total of 56 golfers took part in the 2021 Aluf Marianas Health Golf Classic.

The tournament, a collaboration among Marianas Health and its group of companies and the Aluf Golf Association of Luta, intended to raise health and healthcare awareness for the community on Rota, while raising funds to go toward community and beautification projects throughout the island, especially during the upcoming summer months.

RUNNERS

From Page 24

intersection and the portion along the Japanese Tank memorial in Quartermaster.

Saipan Cyclers Association's Jay Diyco agrees with DLNR's decision to enforce the 2002 law. "I think it's okay since the pathway is mostly used by many for running and walking exercise. I sometimes see some bikers going too fast and putting the people using the pathway in danger if they will lose control of their bike."

He, however, is willing to make concessions to those riding bikes to work. "It's OK to use the pathway for bikers to

commute to work but if it's for exercise, it's not a good idea for me. Biking or cycling is becoming popular on Saipan and I hope that our roads will be bike-friendly to encourage more people to bike for their health."

Triathlon of the CNMI president Manny Sitchon said the law banning bikes along the Beach Road pathway has been in the books for nearly 20 years and it's about time the government enforces it.

"For safety reasons people riding bikes or a motorized bike along the pathway should be banned. Especially there are bikers who just don't care when they ride along the pathway."

Sitchon, however, added that the government should improve the bike lanes along the roadway and also erect signs reminding motorists of the mandatory 3-foot distance a vehicle must give to a cyclist.

Champion biker Joel Buco said he doesn't really use the Beach Road pathway when he practices and uses the highway instead because of preponderance of walkers and runners along the pathway.

Charlie Sendin, who like Sitchon runs and bikes, said it's unfortunate that biking along the pathway is now illegal. "We all need to follow the law. I just wish for the safety of my fellow bikers."

Butch Sublemente, another runner and biker, said to make everyone happy the government should make a better bike lane along Beach Road.

"That will allow cyclists to safely enjoy their favorite activity. It would also be good for attracting more tourists who love to explore the islands riding a bike. Protected bicycle lanes will make the roads safer for everyone. It doesn't only keep people on bicycles alive but improve the safety of people driving and walking in the pathway as well. The bottom line is: everything the well-designed protected bike lane represents is positive. It is a pathway to health, progress,

and safer for more citizens of the CNMI," he said.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said while cyclists have no choice but to abide by the law, the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is indeed working to redesign Beach Road with appropriate dedicated bike lanes in mind.

"In order to protect both pedestrians and bicyclists, DLNR will crackdown on the enforcement of bicyclists riding on the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway... The law has already been in place in the CNMI... The administration has initiated plans for bike lanes on all major thoroughfare, par-

ticularly Beach Road. We understand that this is not going to happen overnight, but this administration intends to get the ball rolling on projects that keep pedestrians safe on pedestrian walkways and cyclists on bike lanes," he said.

Asked if DLNR would allow children to continue riding their bikes along the Beach Road pathway, Bautista said he would've to check with the agency but his initial thoughts are that it would probably be allowed.

"Will need to talk to DLNR. But that should be fine. Usually parents are walking behind their kids biking. It's like a stroller," he said.

NMISF welcomes building of new pool

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president John Hirsh said the umbrella organization of all local swim clubs is welcoming the construction of a new 50m pool at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Olympic-size swim-

ming pool is part of the \$21.2-million grant the CNMI government received from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

"We're overjoyed. This is the first time a new Olympic pool will be built on Saipan in 40 years. The first pool was



built in the mid-'70s when Kan Pacific took possession of that lease there and there's not been a new Olympic pool built since then for competition. So this is going to be a brand new \$4-million, state-of-the-art, 50m pool and centrally located. This is huge for the swimming

community in the Commonwealth and we're just so happy about it," he said.

The new swimming pool couldn't have come at a better time as local swimmers haven't had a public pool to swim in since the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi closed in October 2018.

Saipan Swim Club co-

members of the island community to take up the sport.

Triple Crown this weekend

The second part of SSC's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series will resume this Saturday morning in the waters off Civic Center Beach at the back of the Guma Sakman/500 Sails Inc. building.

Like the first part of the NMISF-sanctioned open water series last July 10, this weekend's race will feature 20m for beginners, 50m for intermediate, 100m for advanced, 500m open, 1,000m open, 1,500m open, and the 1,000m World Championship qualifier only for selected swimmers. An awards ceremony will be held after the race.

The 1,000m World Championship qualifier will choose the CNMI's representatives for the 2021 FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December.

SSC coach Richard Sikkell expects a better turnout in this Saturday's race compared to the July 10 competition. The third and last part of the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series will be held on Sept. 25.

"I'm looking forward to this weekend's race. Same place, same time, same format. Thank you to 500 Sails for allowing us to use their facilities and providing life guards for the event. Looking forward to see more of their swimmers join this weekend's race! Thank you also to John Hirsh from the NMISF for supporting the event."

To register, copy and paste <https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=247376&fbclid=IwAR1AazqoHbLFoRMxJqioXhNPg8pdAmhHOz0XqxWtjFGFOxGv8a5JvU-aNw>.



Hirsh

'Tomo' following in dad and uncle's footsteps

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tomomitsu Aldan is more than 5,000 miles from home yet there was something familiar for the 8th grader when he competed in the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series held last July 10 in the waters off Civic Center Beach.

For Tomo, as he is called by family, is the son of former CNMI national swimmer David Palacios, which also makes him the nephew of Dean Palacios, another bemedaled CNMI swimmer. Both brothers swam for CNMI Sports Hall of Famers and Saipan Swim Club co-founders Bill and Jean Sakovich.

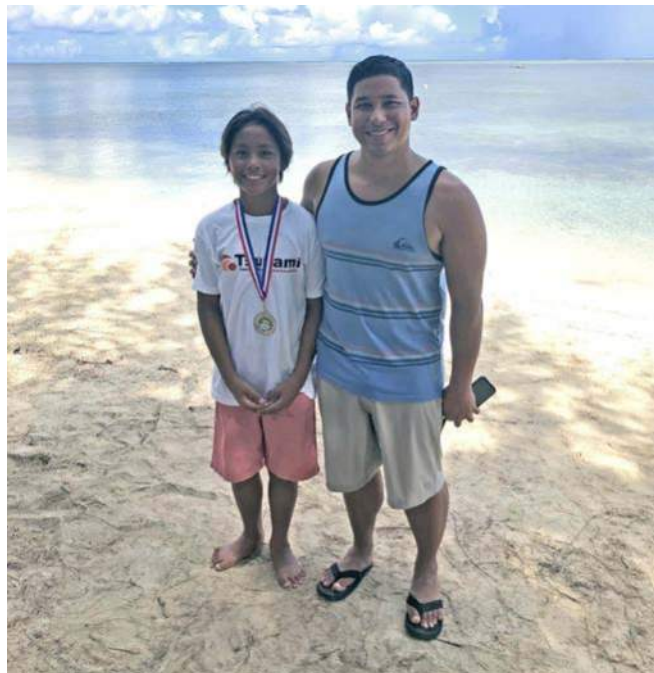
Aldan, who lives in Chico, California, said the open water swim was a great experience and something he won't easily forget.

"It was rough I didn't pace myself that well. [But] I had a lot of fun and that's all that matters," he said.

When asked if like his father and uncle he'd be interested in being part of the CNMI national swimming team in the future, Aldan's ready answer was, "I hope so and that sounds like a good goal and I'll try."

After spending the summer on Saipan, Aldan is set to leave the island in August.

Dean Palacios, who watched



MARK RABAGO

Tomomitsu Aldan poses with Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura after the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series held last July 10 in the waters off Civic Center Beach.

his nephew compete two Saturdays ago, said he's proud of Aldan swimming in the open water competition, where he finished second to Justin Ma in the 500m race with a time of 8:11.5. He also gave his thoughts on his nephew donning the national colors someday.

"Tomo is gonna be here only a few months so he's not gonna be able to be part of the



national team but if he comes back maybe he can."

The current staff of the CNMI Law Revision Commission also said it was also cool seeing a lot of youth swimmers taking part in the open water swim.

"I haven't taken much track of our swimmers lately but I'm happy they get to go to the FINA World Championships," he said.

Palacios admitted that watching the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series, which is a qualifier for the FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December, also made him reminisce a bit about his swimming past.

"It's different though. We did ocean swims but I'm more used to the swimming pool where it's high energy and where everybody's cheering. Here it's more spread out but it was still nice."

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said it's a thrill seeing the progeny of one of the CNMI's top swimmers taking up the baton.

"Tomo is son of David Palacios who is the one of the legendary swimmers of the CNMI. My sons, both are national swimmers here, worked hard and grew up looking up to David and younger brother Dean. Me and my wife thanked them very much because our kids were always inspired by David and Dean."

Kimura said he can't believe that after all these years, he is now coaching the son of the "legendary" David Palacios.

"Time goes by, I'm coaching the son now. I've never been so honored! With the Tsunami Saipan spirit, I give Tomo as much coaching as I can now."

Ramon named MGA July ace

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Jess Ramon won the Marianas Golf Association July Ace of the Month Tournament after firing a net 64 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course last July 11.

Ramon shot a 44 in the first nine holes before going berserk in the last nine holes with a 41 to end up with a gross of 85, which minus his 21 handicap, gave him the July win.

He actually tied with youth golfer Joshua Atalig, as both wound up with identical net scores of 64. Ramon, however, was named the July ace winner as Atalig already won

the monthly plum last May.

Atalig still won the top purse though of \$275 by virtue of beating Ramon in a tie-breaker in the last nine holes. The son of CNMI national golfer J.J. Atalig came away

with a 42 in the front nine and 40 in the back nine for a gross of 82, which minus his 18 handicap, gave him a net 64. Ramon settled for the runner-up purse of \$150.

Ten-handicapper Nate

Camacho claimed third place with his net 65 built around a 38 in the first nine holes and 37 in the last nine holes for a gross score of 75. He went home with \$100 in his pocket.

In the closet to the pin competition, Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho clubbed it in hole No. 3, while Bill Camacho

was without peer in hole No. 7. Holes No. 13 and 17, meanwhile, belonged to Mel Sablan and Nate Camacho, respectively. Each of them were \$190 richer for their feats.

A total of 41 golfers took part in the MGA July Ace of the Month Tournament.

MGA holds its monthly

aces once a month circulating through the four current golf courses and are always inviting interested golfers to join the MGA club. All interested participants need to do is reach out to a current MGA member for details. MGA's golf season runs from May 2021 through April 2022.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Golf Association members pose for a group photo at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course after competing in the July Ace of the Month last July 11.



Triton Esports seeks competitive gamers to join their team rosters

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NMISF welcomes building of new pool

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2021

Megino hands Matansa first win



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anton Megino, seen here working on the ball in Week 3 of the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021, scored three goals in Matansa's shutout win over TanHoldings in the co-ed U12 division game last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Anton Megino scored a hat trick to lift Matansa Football Club to a 3-0 win over TanHoldings Football Club in their co-ed U12 division match in the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Megino hit the board in the 18th, 25th, and 35th minute to give Matansa its first win in four games. Matansa earned a pair of draws and had one loss in its first three matches. TanHoldings, on the other hand, absorbed its third defeat against only one victory.

In other results in the division, Paire also blanked Kanoa, 4-0, while Shirley's topped MP United FC, 5-3.

Rodney Tomei, Jazzroy and Jayten Villagomez, and Justidy Mizutani delivered the goals for Paire, which kept the No. 1 spot in the team standings after improving to a 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record. Kanoa



has yet to win this season and is at the bottom of the ladder.

Shirley's moved up from third to second place in the rankings with its 2-1-1 slate following a vic-

tory over MP United, which dropped to a 2-0-2 mark.

Bennet Haro and Branson Santos fired two goals apiece for Shirley's, while Frank Lu-

See MEGINO on Page 22

Camachos top Aluf Marianas tourney



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe "Kamikaze" and Xerxes Camacho show off their low gross plaque during the awards ceremony of last Saturday's 2021 Aluf Marianas Health Golf Classic at the Rota Golf Resort & Country Club.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The father-and-son pair of Joe "Kamikaze" and Xerxes Camacho added another feather in their cap by winning the gross category of the 2021 Aluf Marianas Health Golf Classic last Saturday at the Rota Golf Resort & Country Club.

The Camachos shot a 5-under 67 to beat all comers and pocketed the \$500 purse. They narrowly beat the second place pair of Joel Hocog and D.J. Narro, who came in at 4-under 68. The gross score competition was a winner-take-all division as there was no purse for finishing runner-up.

Joe Camacho said more than winning tournaments,

playing with his son in the sport that they both love is the biggest prize of them all.

"It's always been an overwhelming feeling playing and spending time with my kids and winning at the same time. It's like no other feeling. Words just can't explain it. It just touches places in you that you didn't know it existed," he said.

The elder Camacho said conditions at the Rota Golf Resort & Country Club have been improving lately and this has led to some golfers playing better golf.

"The course conditions weren't that bad except for the greens. The greens were the real challenge, but it's getting better than the last tournament we had."

In the double Peoria catego-

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Runners, bikers weigh in on implementation of 2002 law

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Department of Land and Natural Resources' sudden decision to finally implement a nearly 20-year law prohibiting bicycles along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway has created a debate on social media that is unfortunately pitting the islands' runners/walkers against the cycling community.

NMI Cycling Federation president Vince Seman said the solution is really simple, which is for the government to include a dedicated bike lane

on the long-delayed planned facelift of Beach Road.

"This ideally could have been implemented in conjunction with the dedicated bike lane. There are parts of Beach Road that are really tight for automobiles and bicycles to share the road. Hopefully, some concessions for kids riding their bikes can also be accommodated," he said.

Run Saipan coordinator Edward Dela Cruz couldn't agree more, adding that for some riding a bike is not only to keep in shape but also a mode of transportation to and from work.

"Beach Road just needs to be updated with a more accommodating bike lane than what they have now. Biking is not just an exercise but a form of transportation for others. I understand why bikers don't feel safe at on the roadway. It would be amazing if we can upgrade the bike lanes for them," he said.

And Seman and Dela Cruz are right on the money on the sad state of the supposed bike lane along Beach Road as there are portions of the thoroughfare where the bike lane completely disappears like the section between First Hawaiian Bank and the Atkins Kroll

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MARK RABAGO

The section of the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway where the Japanese Tank memorial is located is completely devoid of a dedicated bike lane.



MARK RABAGO

The Beach Road bike lane inexplicably disappears in this section along the Saipan Community Church in Susupe.